

Trump, Modi show unity between world's largest democracies

By DEB RIECHMANN
HOUSTON (AP) — Deafening drums marked the entrance of President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi as they clasped hands and walked across the stage in a packed Texas stadium Sunday, sending a message of unity between the world's two largest democracies despite trade tensions.

But instead of dwelling on differences, Trump highlighted the growth of U.S. exports to India, the billions of dollars spent by India on U.S.-made defense equipment and joint military exercises with New Delhi. "India has never invested in the United States like it is doing today," Trump said, adding that "we're doing the same thing in India."

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Donald Trump shake hands after introductions during the "Howdi Modi" event Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019, at NRG Stadium in Houston.

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Continued from Front

The president also discussed border security, an important campaign issue for Texas, which shares a border with Mexico.

"We are taking unprecedented action to secure our southern border and stop illegal immigration," Trump said.

About 50,000 Indian Americans attended the "Howdy Modi!" rally in Houston, where the crowd chanted "Modi! Modi! Modi!" as he took the stage to introduce Trump as "my friend, a friend of India, a great American president."

Modi even used Trump's political slogan to say the president had a strong resolve to "make America great again."

"When I met him for the first time, he said to me 'India has a true friend in the White House,'" Modi said. "Mr. President, this morning in Houston, you can hear the heartbeat of this great partnership in this celebration of the world's two largest democracies."

The event had the feel of one of Trump's campaign rallies, complete with a packed venue and a roaring crowd, and Trump treated it that way at times. He ticked off his accomplishments in office, highlighted a drop in the unemployment rate among Indian Americans and extolled their contributions to the U.S. as he pitched for their vote in a traditionally Republican state that Democrats have visions of pulling into their column next year. Trump said Modi invited him to the rally - one of the largest U.S. gatherings of the Indian diaspora in history - when they met

last month in France, and Trump seemed to explain his decision to attend by saying "I love India."

Earlier this year, Modi won the biggest reelection India has seen in years and his support for Trump could help the president at the polls next year. The two are to meet Tuesday on the sidelines of the annual U.N. General Assembly.

Trump is also scheduled to meet this week with Pakistani leader Imran Khan, who recently solicited the president's help mediating the Pakistan-India conflict over Kashmir. India's government has stripped the disputed Himalayan region of its semi-autonomy and launched a security crackdown last month.

Trump said U.S.-India bonds are expanding despite tensions over India's trade surplus with the U.S. In June, the U.S. canceled special trade privileges that had allowed India to export certain goods with lower tariffs. India responded by slapping tariffs on more than two dozen U.S. goods. The U.S. and India are discussing ways to negotiate at least a partial trade deal, which would let the president score a victory as he campaigns for re-election in November 2020. A partial deal could include Washington reinstating India's special tariff status in exchange for concessions related to access to Indian markets, possibly in dairy and medical devices. Other issues are thwarting efforts to sign a larger trade deal.

In an address in Hindi to "my family," Modi briefly mentioned the trade talks and expressed hope that



Pakistan children dress up like injured Kashmiri children and hold a portrait of U.S. President Donald Trump during a demonstration organized by International Human Right Movement to express solidarity with Indian Kashmiris, in Lahore, Pakistan, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

an announcement can be made while he and Trump participate in the U.N. gathering.

Modi said that while Trump has called himself a "tough negotiator," he has learned a few things from Trump about the art of making deals. After the speeches, Modi asked Trump to walk hand-in-hand around the perimeter of the stadium floor, looking up to the stands of cheering fans. After the Houston event, Trump flew to Ohio, a key state for him in the 2020 presidential race. He and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison are to mark the opening of an Australian-owned Pratt Industries plant in Wapakoneta. Trump hosted Morrison and his wife, Jenny, on a state visit last week.

In Texas, Trump was briefed on recent storm flooding in the southeastern part of the state when he stopped at

a nearby U.S. Coast Guard station.

Hundreds of homes and other buildings across a region extending eastward from Houston and across the Louisiana border, were damaged by Imelda, as

the one-time tropical storm slowly churned across the Gulf region, dumping more than 40 inches (102 centimeters) of rain in some areas.

Authorities blame the storm for at least five deaths. □

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Missing Camp Pendleton Marine found safe at Texas rest stop

RICHLAND, Texas (AP) — A U.S. Marine believed to have left Arizona for California's Camp Pendleton never arrived, but was found days later at a Texas rest area, unharmed.

Lance Cpl. Job Wallace was taken into custody Saturday night by Naval Criminal Investigative Service and other law enforcement officers at a rest area in Navarro County, according to a NCIS statement cited by The San Diego Union-Tribune.

The 20-year-old had last been seen leaving a friend's house in Surprise, Arizona, on Monday night, his mother, Stacy Wallace, said. He was due back at Camp Pendleton after a three-day leave that took him home to the suburbs west of Phoenix and a camping trip.

About an hour south of Dal-

las, Navarro County is more than 1,100 miles (1,770 kilometers) east of Surprise and in the opposite direction from Camp Pendleton in Southern California.

The statement from Kurt Thomas, the special agent in charge of the NCIS Marine Corps West field office, did not include details about how Wallace was found or what he was doing.

Stacy Wallace had said her son loved the Marines and was excited to get back to Camp Pendleton, having been recently promoted.

"He got into several colleges and missed scholarship opportunities just so that he could be a Marine, because he felt it was his duty to serve his country," Wallace said. Wallace's mother had said law enforcement officials told her that her son's phone was last

pinged Monday night in Arizona. But a Border Patrol camera spotted his truck the next morning traveling eastbound on Interstate 10 near Fort Hancock, Texas, southeast of El Paso.

A Surprise police spokesman had said officers took a report and turned the matter over to the Naval Criminal Investigative Service. Thomas' Saturday night statement thanked law enforcement partners in Texas, Arizona and on the federal level "for their aid in bringing this to a safe resolution." □



This Sept. 2019 photo released by Stacy Wallace shows her son, Job Wallace, in Oceanside, Calif.

Associated Press

53 people illegally in U.S. found in tractor-trailer in Texas

LAREDO, Texas (AP) — The U.S. Border Patrol says agents at a checkpoint in Texas found 53 migrants who had entered the country illegally hiding in the back of a sweltering tractor-trailer. The Border Patrol said Friday that the migrants were found Tuesday during a search of the truck at a checkpoint on Interstate 35 north of Laredo. The migrants, who were from Mexico, Ecuador, Guatemala, El Salva-

dor and Honduras, and the driver, who is a U.S. citizen, were arrested and processed. The Border Patrol says the temperature inside the trailer was 105 degrees Fahrenheit (41 degrees Celsius). Officials say those on board were evaluated and no one required medical attention. On Sept. 11, a U.S. citizen was arrested in Arizona after 31 Mexicans who were illegally in the U.S. were found in the tractor-trailer he was driving. □



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Trump suggests he raised Biden with Ukraine's president

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump suggested Sunday that he raised former Vice President Joe Biden and Biden's son in a summer phone call with Ukraine's new leader, as Democrats pressed for investigations into whether Trump improperly used his office to try to dig up damaging information about a political rival.

Trump told reporters that the July 25 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy was "congratulatory" and focused on corruption in the East European nation. In his remarks to reporters, he then raised Biden as an example, although there is no evidence of wrongdoing by Biden or his son Hunter, who was on the board of a Ukrainian gas company.

"It was largely the fact that we don't want our people, like Vice President Biden and his son, creating to the corruption already in the Ukraine," Trump said as he left the White House for a trip to Texas.

Biden, who is among the front-runners for the Demo-



President Donald Trump talks with reporters before leaving on Marine One on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

cratic presidential nomination, accused Trump of making a baseless political smear.

The matter has sparked a fierce debate over whether Trump misused his office for political gain and whether his administration is withholding from Congress critical information

about his actions. The incident is part of a whistleblower complaint, but the acting director of national intelligence, Joseph Maguire, has refused to share details with lawmakers, citing presidential privilege. Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who has resisted calls for impeach-

ment for other alleged Trump transgressions, said Sunday that unless Maguire provides information to Congress, administration officials "will be entering a grave new chapter of lawlessness which will take us into a whole new stage of investigation."

Another impeachment holdout so far, the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union" that "we may very well have crossed the Rubicon here."

A person familiar with the matter has told The Associated Press that Trump urged Zelenskiy to investigate Hunter Biden. The person wasn't authorized to discuss the issue publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

"Ukraine's got a lot of problems," Trump said at the White House. "The new president is saying that he's going to be able to rid the country of corruption and I said that would be a great thing. We had a great conversation. We had a conversation on many things." Hunter Biden was hired by the Ukrainian gas company Burisma Holdings in April 2014, two months after Ukraine's Russia-friendly president was ousted by protesters and as his father was heavily involved in U.S.

efforts to support the new pro-Western government and its pledge to fight corruption. The hiring of the younger Biden immediately raised concerns that the Ukrainian firm, whose owner was a political ally of the ousted president, was seeking to gain influence with the Obama administration. Two years later, Joe Biden pressured the Ukrainian government to fire the prosecutor general, who was accused by many in Ukraine and in the West of being soft on corruption. Trump has claimed that the prosecutor, who had led an investigation into Burisma's owner, "was after" Hunter Biden and the vice president was trying to protect his son. There is no evidence of this.

Trump insisted he said "absolutely nothing wrong" in the call to Zelenskiy. He did not answer directly when asked whether he would release a transcript of the conversation to the public. After arriving in Texas, Trump told reporters he will look into releasing details or a transcript of the call, but stressed that foreign leaders should feel free to speak frankly with an American president without fear that the details of their conversations will later be disclosed. Trump said if Ukraine released its own transcript it would be the same as his version of the call.

Trump and Zelenskiy plan to meet on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly later this week.

The president has described the whistleblower as "partisan" but has acknowledged not knowing the identity of the intelligence official who lodged a formal complaint against him with the inspector general for the intelligence community.

The complaint was based on a series of events, including the July 25 call between Trump and Zelenskiy, according to two people familiar with the matter. They were not authorized to discuss the issue by name and were granted anonymity. □

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Ex-cop's murder trial for shooting neighbor set to start

By JAKE BLEIBERG
Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Last September, a white police officer shot and killed an unarmed black man in his own apartment. That much is settled.

But nearly every other aspect Amber Guyger's murder trial for the killing of Botham Jean remains cloaked in controversy as opening statements in the case are set to start Monday.

For some, the shooting was a tragic accident with circumstances that can only be described as "very unique." Others place it in pattern of white officers killing black men that, they say, points to systemic problems in American policing.

A jury will ultimately have to reach consensus on whether Guyger committed murder, a lesser offense or no crime at all. On the eve of trial, one of the only points of agreement about her case in Dallas is that it has the potential to profoundly affect the relationship between police and residents. Dr. Brian Williams, the former head of the city's police oversight board, called the trial a "flashpoint" that could significantly bolster or deeply damage public confidence in the police.

"This is an opportunity for Dallas to show that there is a way of handling these complicated and controversial issues of police use of force against minority citizens in a way that is fair and transparent and assures accountability for law enforcement," Williams said.

Guyger, 31, was off duty but still in uniform when she shot Jean. She told investigators that after a 15-hour shift she confused Jean's apartment with her own, which was directly below his, and mistook the 26-year-old accountant from the Caribbean island nation of St. Lucia for a burglar.

Guyger said she parked on the fourth floor of her

apartment complex's garage — rather than the third floor, where she lived — and found the apartment's door ajar, according to an affidavit.

Three days after the shooting, Guyger was arrested for manslaughter. She was subsequently fired from the Dallas police department and charged by a grand jury with murder.

Jean's family and other critics have questioned why Guyger was not taken into custody immediately after the shooting and whether race factored into her use of deadly force. In January, a judge issued a gag order barring attorneys in the case from speaking about it publicly.

Because of the shooting, Dallas residents of color feel "they can no longer be safe even in their living rooms," said imam Omar Suleiman, a leader with interfaith group Faith Forward Dallas. Some city residents expect Guyger will not face legal punishment and are preparing to respond, he said. "That's very dangerous," Suleiman said. "If the community sees her walk free without any repercussions it's not just going to be your ordinary protest."

Legal experts say getting a murder conviction will be difficult in Guyger's case. Heath Harris, a defense lawyer and former First Assistant District Attorney in Dallas County, said Guyger's attorneys are likely to argue that she acted in self-defense because she believed she was in her own home. The case may well hang on whether the jury thinks that was a reasonable mistake.

If the jury believes Guyger made a sincere error, then that means the shooting wasn't murder, said John Helms, a Dallas defense attorney and former federal prosecutor. But they could still find her guilty of manslaughter or criminally negligent homicide, which can also come with heavy sentences, he said.

Twelve jurors and four al-

ternatives were selected to hear the case earlier this month. The racial makeup of the jury hasn't yet been made public although both lawyers said who is on the jury will be crucial.

"There are going to be some people who, I think, will feel natural sympathy to a police officer," said Helms. "And there are other people who will have a terrible mistrust of people who are in law enforcement."

The head of an organization that represents Dallas police said he hopes all parts of the city will respect the jury's verdict. But Dallas Police Officers Association President Mike Mata said he's nervous that outside "antagonizers" will use Guyger's case to try



In this Sept. 13, 2019 file photo, fired Dallas police Officer Amber Guyger, right, arrives for jury selection in her murder trial at the Frank Crowley Courthouse in downtown Dallas.

Associated Press

"to make a national statement."

Mata, a sergeant, called Jean's death a "very tragic accident" but said Guyger's prosecution has many officers worried that they'll face criminal charges if they use fatal force to defend themselves or others.

"They charged Officer Guyger with murder because they say she knowingly and intentionally

pulled the trigger causing the death of another," Mata said. "Well isn't that the definition of every police shooting?" But even within the ranks of Dallas police, Guyger's case has sparked disagreement. Terrance Hopkins, president of the Black Police Association of Greater Dallas, said he's quick to correct people who call Jean's death a police shooting. □

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U.S. police assess rise in threat tips after 3 mass killings

By LISA MARIE PANE and STEFANIE DAZIO

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — It had all the makings of a massacre. Six guns, including a Colt AR-15 rifle. About 1,000 rounds of ammunition. A bulletproof vest. And an angry Southern California man who threatened to kill his co-workers at a hotel and its guests.

But a concerned colleague intervened, alerting authorities who arrested 37-year-old Rodolfo Montoya, a cook at the Long Beach Marriott hotel, the next day and discovered the arsenal where he lived in a run-down motor home parked near industrial buildings.

In the weeks after three high-profile shootings in three states took the lives of more than two dozen people in one week in August, law enforcement authorities nationwide reported a spike in tips from concerned relatives, friends and co-workers about people who appear bent on carrying out the next mass shooting. Some of those would-be shooters sent text messages to friends or posted on social media that they hoped to one-up previous mass shootings by killing more people.

The reasons for the increase in tips and heightened awareness of thwarted mass shootings vary, law enforcement officials said. In some cases, it's the so-called "contagion effect"



This undated file photo released by the Long Beach, Calif., Police Department shows weapons and ammunition seized from a cook at a Los Angeles-area hotel who allegedly threatened a mass shooting.

in which intense media coverage of mass shootings leads to more people seeking to become copy-cat killers. In other cases, it's a reflection of the general public being more aware of warning signs when a friend or relative or co-worker is in an emotional crisis — and more willing to tip off police.

On average, the Federal Bureau of Investigation receives about 22,000 tips about potential threats of violence weekly. That volume increased by about 15,000 following the high-profile shootings during

the first week of August in Gilroy, California; El Paso, Texas; and Dayton, Ohio that killed 34 people and wounded nearly 70.

Mass shootings tend to plant the idea of carrying out a rampage or at least encourage the idea in potential mass shooters, each seeking notoriety or striving to "out-do" others with higher death tolls, said sociologist James Densley, a criminal justice professor at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, Minnesota, who studies mass shootings and the people who perpetrate them.

And the general public in turn becomes more aware of the possibility of mass shootings, heightening people's willingness to speak out if a friend, relative or co-worker appears to be in the midst of a crisis and plotting carnage, Densley said. In addition, the media focuses not only on the actual shootings, but also on those that are foiled.

But identifying and predicting who the next shooter will be is challenging for authorities, he said.

The reason? Mass shootings remain rare events and

there's no one basic profile for the attackers. The demographics of school shooters and their motivations are vastly different from someone who carries out carnage in a place of worship. The same holds true for those who carry out workplace shootings.

"When it comes to thinking about the profile of a mass shooter what our research is starting to uncover is there's not really one profile of a mass shooter," Densley said.

But the one common thread is that there are usually warning signs in the days and weeks leading up to the shootings, with many shooters taking to social media to vent outrage at whatever is troubling them.

Greg Shaffer, a retired FBI agent who now is a private security consultant specializing in active shooters and terrorism, said in an interview that the challenge for law enforcement is the juggling act of trying to balance the public's safety while not trampling on Americans' constitutional rights. For example, at what point does a troubling social media post constitute an illegal threat versus simple venting that's protected by the First Amendment? "The real rub is where do you draw the line between First, Second and Fourth Amendment rights?" he said. "We allow hate speech. It's freedom of speech. □"

3 dead, 4 hospitalized in suspected drug overdose

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Three people were killed and four others were hospitalized early Sunday in what police said appeared to be a mass drug overdose. The victims, all men, appear to have taken narcotics at the same time and in the same place in an apartment on Pittsburgh's South Side, authorities said. It wasn't immediately clear which drug or combination of drugs was involved. Investigators were interviewing survivors at the hospital. All of the victims were wearing orange paper bands on their wrists. Police determined the victims initially went to a venue together, then headed to the apartment where they overdosed. "To be clear, this was not a

case of a tainted drug being passed around or distributed in large volume at a large venue which could have affected even more people. It appears to have been isolated to a single location," the Pittsburgh Department of Public Safety said in a statement. "However, police are concerned about a tainted, potentially deadly batch of drugs in the community." Five of the victims were found in an apartment, one in an elevator outside the apartment and one on the street. The hospitalized victims' conditions ranged from serious to critical. The apartment building said the victims were not tenants of the building, but knew someone who lived there. □



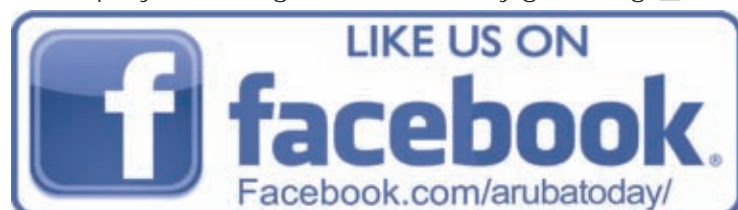
This is the apartment building on the city's South Side where police say multiple people are dead and others are hospitalized in what they're calling a "medical situation" Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019 in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

Polish president visits New Britain, city with Polish ties

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. (AP) — The president of Poland was made to feel right at home during a visit Sunday to a Connecticut city with many residents of Polish descent, who wore red and white T-shirts and waved Polish flags. President Andrzej Duda attended Mass at a Catholic church, visited Central Connecticut State University and addressed Polish-American relations at a local park during a visit to New Britain. About 20,000 people with Polish heritage live in the city of about 73,000 near Hartford. New Britain even has a neighborhood called Little Poland. Duda and first lady Agata Kornhauser-Duda started their trip by attending Mass

at a packed Holy Cross Church while the crowd overflowed outside. Edyta Kysmirek, of Farmington, who was one of the hundreds standing outside the church, told the New Britain Herald it was an honor for Duda to visit New Britain instead of the bigger cities nearby, like New York or Boston. Irena and Ted Kurzyna told the Hartford Courant they cut short a camping trip so they could get a glimpse of Duda. "I have been here almost 29 years, waiting for the first visit from a president. I had to come," Irene Kurzyna said. Duda plans to travel from Connecticut to New York to attend an upcoming United Nations General Assembly gathering. □



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'Deficit of trust': At UN, leaders of a warming world gather

By EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) —

The planet is getting hotter, and tackling that climate peril will grab the spotlight as world leaders gather for their annual meeting at the United Nations this week facing an undeniable backdrop: rising tensions from the Persian Gulf to Afghanistan and increasing nationalism, inequality and intolerance.

Growing fear of military action, especially in response to recent attacks on Saudi oil installations that are key to world energy supplies, hangs over this year's General Assembly gathering. That unease is exacerbated by global conflicts and crises from Syria and Yemen to Venezuela, from disputes between Israel and the Palestinians to the Pakistan-India standoff over Kashmir.

All eyes will be watching presidents Donald Trump of the United States and Hassan Rouhani of Iran, whose countries are at the forefront of escalating tensions, to see if they can reduce fears of a confrontation that could impact the Mideast and far beyond. Whether the two will even meet remains in serious doubt.

"Our fraying world needs international cooperation more than ever, but simply saying it will not make it happen," U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said. "Let's face it: We have no time to lose."

This year's General Assembly session, which starts Tuesday and ends Sept. 30, has attracted world leaders from 136 of the 193 U.N. member nations. That large turnout reflects a growing global focus on addressing climate change and



People walk along a plaza at United Nations Headquarters Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019.

Associated Press

the perilous state of peace and security.

Other countries will be represented by ministers and vice presidents — except Afghanistan, whose leaders are in a hotly contested presidential campaign ahead of Sept. 28 elections, and North Korea, which downgraded its representation from a minister to, likely, its U.N. ambassador. Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu canceled plans to attend and are sending ministers.

Last week, Guterres repeated warnings that "tensions are boiling over." The world, he said, "is at a critical moment on several fronts — the climate emergency, rising inequality, an increase in hatred and intolerance as well as an alarming number of peace and security challenges."

With so many monarchs, presidents and prime ministers at the U.N. this year, "we have a chance to advance diplomacy for

peace," Guterres said. "This is the moment to cool tensions."

Whether that happens remains to be seen. Many diplomats aren't optimistic. "It's a challenging time for the United Nations," said China's U.N. ambassador, Zhang Jun, whose nation is embroiled in a protracted dispute with the United States over tariffs. "We are faced with rising of unilateralism, protectionism, and we are faced with global challenges like climate change, like terrorism, like cybersecurity."

"More importantly," he said, "we are faced with a deficit of trust."

As the world's second-largest economy and a member of the U.N. Security Council, "China firmly defends multilateralism, and China firmly supports the United Nations," Zhang said Friday.

But divisions among the five council members — the U.S., Russia, China, Britain and France — have paralyzed action on the eight-year conflict in Syria

and other global crises. On global warming, the Trump administration remains at odds with many countries. This year, the U.N. has stocked the agenda with a "Youth Climate Summit" ahead of a full-on climate summit for world leaders on Monday. That's all happening before the leaders hold their annual meeting in the horseshoe-shaped General Assembly hall starting Tuesday morning.

Guterres will give his state-of-the-world address at the opening, immediately followed by speeches from Trump and other leaders including the presidents of Brazil, Egypt and Turkey. Iran's Rouhani is scheduled to address the assembly Wednesday morning.

The United Nations is also holding four other summit meetings — on universal health coverage, progress on the 17 U.N. goals to combat poverty and preserve the environment, new ways to finance economic development, and the situation of developing island nations on the front

line of what the U.N. calls a climate emergency.

Guterres has long stressed the links among climate change, conflict and poverty.

U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed said data shows "how much we have to do on poverty and the other goals." The U.N. message, she said, is simple: "It's time to ratchet up the action that we need to have at the country level."

Though the summit meetings are public, much of the business of the high-level week takes place behind closed doors. According to U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric, there were 630 requests for meetings in the United Nations. Hundreds of other one-on-one and small-group meetings will take place at hotels, at U.N. missions and at lunches and dinners.

Indian U.N. Ambassador Syed Akbaruddin said, for example, that Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Foreign Minister Subrahmanya Jaishankar will spend at least half an hour with presidents, prime ministers or foreign ministers of about 75 countries as part of the country's "much more intensive" engagement.

On the key issue of a possible meeting between Modi and Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan to discuss the Aug. 5 decision by Modi's Hindu nationalist-led government to strip disputed Jammu and Kashmir of semi-autonomy and statehood, Akbaruddin said: "There has to be an enabling environment before leaders meet."

"Today the talk that is emanating from Pakistan is certainly not conducive to that enabling environment," he said. □

EU's Juncker: Irish border controls needed in no-deal Brexit

By PAN PYLAS

LONDON (AP) — The European Union will insist that border controls be put up along the Irish border if Britain leaves the bloc without a deal and the British government will be responsible for that, a top EU official said.

Jean-Claude Juncker, the European Commission president, told Sky News in an interview broadcast Sunday that the blame for that would rest squarely on Britain. Border controls could in theory go up soon after Oct. 31, Britain's scheduled departure date. Brussels was "in no way responsible" for the consequences of a no-deal Brexit, Juncker told Sky News.

"We have to make sure that the interests of the European Union and of the internal market will be preserved," he said.

How to maintain a frictionless border between EU member Ireland and Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom, is the thorniest issue in the Brexit discussions. An invisible border is a key component of 1998's Good Friday peace accord that brought peace in Northern Ireland after decades of sectarian violence.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is insisting that the Irish border provision in the Brexit deal negotiated by his predecessor, Theresa

May, be scrapped. The so-called Irish backstop is effectively a guarantee that no border will go up on the island of Ireland by requiring that Britain stick to EU trade rules — even though it won't have any say in the formulation of those rules after Brexit — until the two sides have negotiated a comprehensive trade deal. That would leave Britain locked into the EU's orbit for years.

British lawmakers rejected May's deal three times this year, with many doing so because of their opposition to the backstop.

Johnson is trying to get the EU to agree to replace the backstop with "alternative arrangements" — a mix of technology to replace border checks and a common area for agricultural products and animals covering the whole island of Ireland. Juncker said he is open to alternative arrangements, but noted that in a no-deal Brexit, an animal entering Northern Ireland could then enter the EU via Ireland if there are no border controls.

"This will not happen," he said. "We have to preserve the health and the safety of our citizens."

Under the rules of the EU's single market, goods and people can move across the 28 countries seamlessly. Johnson got elected by Conservative Party mem-



European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker listens Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2019 in Strasbourg, eastern France, as members of the European Parliament discuss the current state of play of the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

Associated Press

bers in July on the promise that the country will leave the EU on Oct. 31 come what may.

British lawmakers, however,

have passed a law that says the prime minister has to request an extension to the Brexit date if Parliament does not back a deal

or a no-deal departure by Oct. 19. That law has raised questions on exactly when the country will leave.

Parliament is now suspended until Oct. 14, just over two weeks before the U.K. is due to leave the EU. However, it may be forced to return if the Supreme Court decides this week that Johnson's request broke the law when he suspended Parliament.

The Supreme Court is deciding whether Johnson unlawfully shut Parliament to prevent lawmakers from scrutinizing his plan to leave the EU with or without a divorce deal. Opponents also accuse him of misleading Queen Elizabeth II, whose formal approval was needed to suspend the legislature. □



Albania quake has 340 aftershocks, people afraid to go home

TIRANA, Albania (AP) — Fear and safety hazards kept many residents of Albania's capital of Tirana and the port city of Durres out of their homes Sunday after an earthquake the day before injured 105 people and damaged hundreds of buildings.

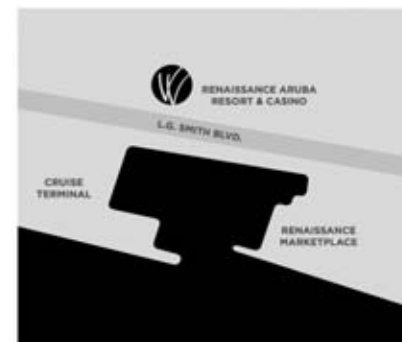
Albania's Institute of Geosciences, Energy, Water and Environment said more than 340 aftershocks have followed the 5.8 magnitude earthquake that hit Saturday afternoon near

Durres.

About 600 houses, most built before 1990, suffered damage in the quake, which also temporarily knocked out power and water facilities in Tirana, Durres and some western and central districts, authorities said.

The U.S. Geological Survey and the European-Mediterranean Seismological Center recorded the rupture on Albania's western Adriatic Sea coast as a magnitude 5.6 quake. □

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Iran asks West to leave Persian Gulf as tensions heightened

By **NASSER KARIMI**

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's president called Sunday on Western powers to leave the security of the Persian Gulf to regional nations led by Tehran, criticizing a new U.S.-led coalition patrolling the region's waterways as nationwide parades showcased the Islamic Republic's military arsenal.

Hassan Rouhani separately promised to unveil a regional peace plan at this week's upcoming high-level meetings at the United Nations, which comes



In this photo released by the official website of the office of the Iranian Presidency, President Hassan Rouhani speaks at a military parade in front of the shrine of the late revolutionary founder Ayatollah Khomeini in Tehran, Iran, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

tionary Guard beside him. The cleric later watched as marching soldiers carrying submachine guns and portable missile launchers drove past as part of "Holy Defense Week," which marks the start of the Iran-Iraq war in 1980.

Rouhani said Iran was willing to "extend the hand of friendship and brotherhood" to Persian Gulf nations and was "even ready to forgive their past mistakes."

"Those who want to link the region's incidents to the Islamic Republic of Iran are lying like their past lies that have been revealed," the president said. "If they are truthful and really seek security in the region, they must not send weapons, fighter jets, bombs and dangerous arms to the region."

Rouhani added that the U.S. and Western nations should "distance" themselves from the region.

"Your presence has always been a calamity for this region and the farther you go from our region and our nations, the more security would come for our region," he said.

He said Iran's plan would focus on providing security in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman "with help from regional countries." Iran has boosted its naval cooperation with China, India, Oman, Pakistan, and Russia in recent years.

The U.S. maintains defense agreements across the Persian Gulf with allied Arab nations and has tens of thousands of troops sta-

tioned in the region. Since 1980, it has viewed the region as crucial to its national security, given its energy exports. A fifth of all oil traded passes through the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf. The U.S. plans to send additional troops to the region over the tensions.

The parades and maneuvers Sunday appeared aimed at projecting Iranian strength with naval vessels, submarines and armed speedboats swarmed across the Persian Gulf and troops showed off land-to-sea missiles capable of targeting the U.S. Navy. Commandos fast-roped down onto the deck of a ship, resembling Iran's July seizure of a British-flagged oil tanker.

Iranian ship seizures, as well as oil tanker explosions that the U.S. blames on Iran, saw America create a new coalition to protect Mideast waters. So far, Australia, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to join it.

Iranian parliament speaker Ali Larijani called the U.S.-led coalition a "a new means for plundering the region," according to Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency.

"We regard the emergence of such coalitions as the start of a new game to make the region insecure," Larijani said, according to Tasnim. Iran separately displayed its Khordad-3 surface-to-air missile that downed a U.S. military surveillance drone in the Strait of Hormuz in June. □

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amid heightened Mideast tensions following a series of attacks, including a missile-and-drone assault on Saudi Arabia's oil industry. The U.S. alleges Iran carried out the Sept. 14 attack on the world's largest oil processor in the kingdom and an oil field, which caused oil prices to spike by the biggest percentage since the 1991 Gulf War. While Yemen's Iranian-allied Houthi rebels claimed the assault, Saudi Arabia says it was "unquestionably sponsored by Iran."

For its part, Iran denies being responsible and has warned any retaliatory attack targeting it will result in an "all-out war." That's as it has begun enriching uranium beyond the terms of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, which the U.S. unilaterally withdrew from over a year earlier. Rouhani spoke from a riser at the parade in Tehran, with uniformed officers from the country's military and its paramilitary Revolu-

Hong Kong protesters trample Chinese flag, set street fires

HONG KONG (AP) — Protesters in Hong Kong trampled a Chinese flag, vandalized two subway stations and set at least two street fires on Sunday, as pro-democracy demonstrations took a violent turn once again.

The day's action began peacefully, as protesters filled a shopping mall and, in a new twist, folded paper "origami" cranes that they tied onto a large rigging they assembled in the mall in the outlying Shatin district.

Some put a Chinese flag on the floor and took turns running over it, before defacing it and putting it in a dumpster outside, which they then pushed into a nearby river.

Hong Kong's pro-democracy protests, now in their fourth month, have often descended into violence late in the day and at night. A hardcore group of protesters says the extreme actions are needed to get the government's attention. On Saturday, police used tear gas and rubber rounds against protesters who threw gasoline bombs toward them and set fires in streets.

As Sunday's protest at Shatin New Town Plaza wound down, some protesters attacked a subway station connected to the mall. They jumped up to smash overhead surveillance cameras, used hammers to knock ticket sensors off gates and spray-painted and broke the screens of ticket machines, using umbrellas to shield their identities.

Riot police arrived following the attack and guarded the station after it was closed, with a metal grill pulled down to block entry. Outside, protesters built a barricade across a street near the mall, piled what appeared to be palm fronds on top and set them on fire.

Police fired tear gas as they tried to advance on the protesters, who took positions behind a wall of handheld umbrellas before ending their demonstration.

Earlier, the protesters at the mall chanted slogans and sang a song that has become their anthem, backed by a small group playing on woodwind and brass instruments through their masks. Many lined the balustrades of the three higher floors overlooking where others gathered in the wide space below.

A series of small skirmishes broke out Sunday night. Protesters vandalized the Kwai Fong subway station, which was then closed. They also set a street fire in the city's Mong Kok area that firefighters put out.

Hong Kong's leader, Chief Executive Carrie Lam, has agreed to withdraw an extradition bill that sparked the protests in early June. But the anti-government protesters are pressing other demands, including fully democratic elections in the semiautonomous Chinese territory and an independent investigation of complaints about police violence during earlier demonstrations.

Protesters say Beijing and Lam's government are eroding the "high degree of autonomy" and Western-style civil liberties promised to the former British colony when it was returned to China in 1997.

The unending protests are an embarrassment for China's Communist Party ahead of Oct. 1 celebrations of its 70th anniversary in power. Hong Kong's government has canceled a fireworks display that day, citing concern for public safety.

On Sunday, transit authorities closed two stations on the airport express train to guard against a possible disruption of transportation to the transportation hub, but none materialized.

Passengers boarding the train were told via onboard announcements that it would make fewer stops than usual, with no mention of the protests. Orange tape blocked the turnstiles at the empty Kowloon station, and police clutching riot helmets greeted arriving passengers at the Hong Kong terminus. □



Protesters vandalize a Chinese national flag during a protest at a mall in Hong Kong on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

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Puerto Rico faces slow recovery 2 years after Maria

By **DÁNICA COTO**
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Weekly power outages. Hundreds of uncleared landslides. More than 25,000 homes with blue tarps as roofs.

Recovery from Hurricane Maria has been slow as Puerto Rico on Friday remembered those who died two years ago. The Category 4 storm killed an estimated 2,975 people in its aftermath and caused more than an estimated \$100 billion in damage. It was the strongest storm to hit the U.S. territory in nearly a century, sparking an estimated exodus of nearly 160,000 people to the U.S. mainland.

Still delayed are millions of dollars in federal funds that



In this Oct. 5, 2017 file photo, Department of Homeland Security personnel deliver supplies to Santa Ana community residents in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in Guayama, Puerto Rico.

Associated Press

local officials say are needed to repair roads, build new homes and improve the island's unstable power grid, making it hard for Puerto Rico to recover as it struggles to emerge from a

13-year recession. Officials say the island is not entirely ready to withstand another direct hit at the height of hurricane season, noting that hurricanes Dorian and Jerry passed just northeast

of Puerto Rico this month. While U.S. Congress has appropriated nearly \$43 billion in federal hurricane recovery funds for Puerto Rico, only \$13.3 billion of the \$21 billion obligated by the U.S. government has been disbursed, Ottmar Chávez, executive director of the island's Central Office for Reconstruction and Recovery, told The Associated Press.

"We certainly still have many needs, and there's still work to do," he said. The state of the power grid remains one of the biggest concerns for Puerto Ricans since reconstruction has not even started.

"It's a project that will take seven years or more," José Sepúlveda, transmission and distribution engineer

for Puerto Rico's Electric Power Authority, told the AP on Friday.

He said transmission lines have been repaired and can now withstand winds of 140 mph (225 kph), but distribution lines, of which there are five times more than those of transmission, will likely not survive a Category 2 storm. Sepúlveda said crews also still have to bury power lines that connect to critical infrastructure including hospitals and relocate substations in flood-prone areas.

The power company is seeking \$8 billion in hurricane recovery funds for upcoming projects, Sepúlveda said, adding that it takes time for the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency to review those projects. □

Colombian leader warns Venezuela



Colombia's President Ivan Duque listens to questions during an interview with The Associated Press at the CATAM air base in Bogota, Colombia, Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019.

Associated Press

By **JOSHUA GOODMAN**
CHRISTINE ARMARIO
Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia's president com-

pared Nicolás Maduro to Serbian war criminal Slobodan Milosevic as he goes on a diplomatic offensive to corral the Venezuelan

socialist, warning that he would be making a "stupid" mistake if he were to attack his U.S.-backed neighbor. Ivan Duque made the comments in an interview Saturday with The Associated Press before traveling to New York where he is expected to condemn Maduro before the United Nations General Assembly as an abusive autocrat who is not only responsible for the country's humanitarian catastrophe but is also now a threat to regional stability for his alleged harboring of Colombian rebels.

"The brutality of Nicolas Maduro is comparable to Slobodan Milosevic," said Duque. "It must come to an end."

While Duque refused to rule out a military strike against the Marxist rebels he claims are hiding out across the border, he said any aggression by Venezuela's armed forces would immediately trigger a regional response that could include additional sanctions and diplomatic actions.

"If they consider doing something so stupid, they know what the consequences will be," said Duque.

Duque has ratcheted up pressure against Maduro in recent weeks after a small band of dissident leftist rebels decided to break with Colombia's historic peace process and take up arms against the state again,

contending that the government has betrayed the accord aimed at ending over five decades of bloodshed. The Colombian leader is expected to accuse Maduro of breaking a U.N. Security Council resolution passed after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks by offering the rebels refuge. The embattled Venezuelan president has repeatedly denied those accusations. Though Maduro himself will not attend this year's U.N. General Assembly, his delegates say they'll levy similar charges against Duque, accusing him of failing to act against illegal armed groups plotting attacks against his government from Colombia. □

LOCAL



Hooked on Seafood

PALM BEACH — For sublime seafood in Aruba go to the island's Premiere Seafood restaurant: Aqua Grill. This seafood-heaven place is already a statement for years with a consistency in upscale dining and top service. If you like to savor your seafood, this is your plunge. We promise you that you will get hooked.

The glow of Aqua Grill is obvious by entering the restaurant. The eclectic of a modern and a traditional New England fish house style appeal and the open-view kitchen adds to the thrill. Let's see what is on the menu. Deep down delicious seafood is what you are craving for and that is exactly what you will get. Welcome in the theatre of the sea, let us entertain you.

Christmas Elevation

Part of the allure of fresh seafood is the variation of dishes. Aqua Grill prepared a special Holiday Menu for you offering three different menus with delicacies. Eat, drink and be merry! Make sure you are on time to reserve this special occasion where you are being pampered in a culinary way with Oyster Soup, Shrimp Cocktail, West Indian Fish Cakes or Fresh Market Greens for a starter. Roast Turkey Breast, Grilled Salmon Fillet, Grilled Portobello and Veggies, Filet Mignon and more can be your delicious entrée and for dessert the sweetest thing is your surprise. There is a minimum of guests per menu between 10 and 20 so check

this out by sending an email to: reservations@aqua-grill.com or Christmas@aqua-grill.com or give them a call on +297 586-5900.

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Aqua Grill invites you to get hooked on the largest raw bar of the island and dive into the wine list of over one hundred selected choices. Local and international catches create an impressive menu including snapper, grouper, mahi-mahi, Chilean salmon, sashimi tuna, Main lobster and Alaskan king crabs. Non-seafood options are part of the menu selection as well. Many locals and visitors are already a regular, we are convinced you want to join that group after your first experience.

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Climate change is happening

ORANJESTAD — Worldwide people get more aware and worried about the changing of the climate. The non-profit organizations Climate Action Aruba and Club Kibrahacha 60+ joined forces to organize an event to show responsibility. Join them on September 27th for a silent and peaceful get-together at Club Kibrahacha in support of the young school strikers. Show that people of Aruba care.

There have been major droughts. June was the hottest June and July the hottest month ever recorded by humans. A large area of the Amazon has been burning for weeks. We are having more and stronger hurricanes, more flooding and storm surges. 200 species are getting extinct a day! We as individuals have the responsibility to make changes in our own lives. But if governments don't take immediate and farfetched measures our small actions are useless.

Young people all over the world are walking out of school this week to ask world leaders to step up and take more climate action. No more false promises but emergency measures. We know governments won't do this on their own, so join the global movement to push governments to bring the change.

For this event people of all ages are welcome. This not only concerns the younger generation, but all of us. Bring a sign/banner, with your reason(s) for joining us. If you are not able to come, you can also show your support by holding a sign with your intention, mention Aruba on it and post it on #Climatestrike). Join us! As individuals we stand alone, together we can make a change!

Club Kibrahacha is located at Piedra Plat 23. The event will take place from 9 to 10 in the morning. Find more info on Facebook Club Kibrahacha 60+ and/or globalclimatestrike.net. □





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Honoring of Goodwill Ambassadors at the Divi Village Aruba

EAGLE BEACH — Recently, Darline de Cuba of the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure to honor Aruba's loyal and friendly visitors as Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba for more than 25 years consecutively.

The honorees were William J. & Frances Woods, residents of Middleton Mass.

They all love coming to the island for its beautiful beaches, perfect weather and safety of the island.

De Cuba together with the representative of Divi Village Aruba, Mr. Francis Ridderstap, thanked them for choosing Aruba as their vacation destination and as their home away from home for so many years. □





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Who will become the best bartender of Aruba? Renaissance Aruba invites you to the Bartenders' Brawl 2019



ORANJESTAD — The fifth edition of the Bartenders' Brawl will be spectacular! Nine bartenders will be battling to become the best bartender of Aruba, celebrating five years of the competition. October 25th will be highlighted by courage and creativity when the bartenders demonstrate their superiority in mixology at the Renaissance festival plaza.

Different 'bites' and cocktails are included when buying the entrance ticket for this chic night at the Festival Plaza. The food is prepared by the culinary team of the Renaissance and will surely compliment the cocktails during the Bartenders' Brawl.

Tickets are available at the Navigator's desk at Renaissance Aruba at the price of \$55 per person and include nine cocktails and cool finger food. There will also be live entertainment. For the last four years this competition has become a complete show. More information can be found on the Facebook page of Renaissance Aruba.

Let's get ready to rumble.



Bartenders of La Cava, Pepia Est., Divino, Manrique Capriles, ATC, TEC and Tropical Bottling will prepare an original mix that will make one of them the most popular bartender of Aruba. Two winners will be chosen; the first one is based on the people's vote for the winning cocktail and the other winner according to the votes of a jury.



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Aruba Has Talent

Wednesday at 8:00pm



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Thursday at 8:00pm



Circus Night

Friday at 8:00pm



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Saturday at 8:00pm



Violin Night

Sunday at 8:00pm



Aruba Has Talent

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Aruba under construction



Over the last years Aruba has been under construction and now you start seeing the outcome. This is my drone shot from last Saturday morning and you can see that one of the roads is almost done. On your right you will see the two famous Fofoti trees. Also you can see some algae or seaweed on the beach these days and this happens like three times a year and lasts only for a few days.

Double celebration



The Balram Family is back on the island for a double celebration. This lovely family decided to celebrate Maureen Balram's 65th year and her son Ishri Balram's 40th birthday here in Aruba. Families from Canada, USA, Holland and Guyana flew in for this special celebration. This double celebration was a huge event at the amazing Red Parrot Restaurant last Saturday. All 52 family members enjoyed the celebration and also the white sandy beaches of our dushi Aruba. Congratulations to Mrs Maureen and Ishri Balram and we will meet again very soon.

Aruba Sunsets



Here in Aruba we do have amazing sunrises and spectacular sunsets. Don't leave Aruba without a nice sunrise and this can be taken at 6:29am these days. Get up early and go to the beach around 6:10am and wait for the first sunrays that will brighten the morning clouds. The first sunrays will be yellowish and eventually will change into a more orange color. This is a sunset photo shoot I did of the Andriano Family from last week and the sunset was just unique.

California Lighthouse



The California Lighthouse is located at Hudishibana near Arashi Beach on the northwest tip of Aruba. This lighthouse was named for the steamship California, which was wrecked nearby on September 23, 1891. This lighthouse is newly renovated and is open for visitors to climb up to the top to see the nice view from the top. On the left you can see the Arashi Beach and also you can see a woman at the top of the lighthouse.

SPORTS



In this May 18, 2019, file photo, Christian Coleman of the United States competes in the final of the men's 100-meter event during the Diamond League Track and Field meet in Shanghai, China.

Associated Press

Bolt gone, doping back as the main topic in sprint game

By EDDIE PELLIS

AP National Writer

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Usain Bolt is in the rearview mirror, replaced by — what else? — an unfolding doping saga in track and field. The title of "World's Fastest Man" now that Bolt is on the sideline belongs to American 100-meter sprinter Christian Coleman, who almost was banned from this month's world championships because he had missed too many drug tests.

Coleman got a reprieve, but with the vacuum created by Bolt's departure, the Coleman case placed the specter of doping front and center again in the sprint game — same as it had been for decades before the Jamaican arrived and overtook the conversation with his sheer speed and buoyant personality.

Continued on Page 23



JONESING FOR A WIN

Jones leads comeback victory in first NFL start

New York Giants wide receiver Sterling Shepard (87) celebrates his touchdown against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers with wide receiver Russell Shepard (81) during the second half of an NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press
Page 20

Munoz wins Sanderson Farms in playoff for 1st PGA Tour title

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Sebastian Munoz of Colombia didn't think he was good enough for the PGA Tour unless he watched Carlos Ortiz of Mexico, his teammate at North Texas, reach the big leagues. He wasn't sure he was good enough to win until watching Joaquin Niemann of Chile win last week.

Munoz was on his own late Sunday afternoon in the Sanderson Farms Championship, and he delivered all the right shots.

Down to his last stroke, Munoz holed a 15-foot birdie putt for a 2-under 70 to force a playoff with Sungjae Im. And in the playoff, he let Im make the more crucial mistake. Munoz hit a chip-and-run to just under 4 feet and made the par for his first PGA Tour victory.

"Jaco's win gave me the belief I needed, the little extra belief I'm good enough, I'm here," Munoz said.

It was the first time in tour history that players from different South American countries won in successive weeks. Camilo Villegas of Colombia won the final two events of the FedEx Cup playoffs in 2008.

Munoz not only has a two-year exemption, he will start next year on Maui at the Sentry Tournament of Champions, compete at The Players Championship for the first time and then head to Augusta National for the Masters.

He knew everything that was at stake. He just tried to forget about it when he reached the 18th green knowing he needed birdie. "I was lucky enough to keep my focus on 18," Munoz said. "I was just thinking about striking it, not on the perks. Not on how it could change my life."

Niemann won by six shots at the Greenbrier. Munoz had it far more difficult.

He was among four players in the mix over the back nine at the Country Club of Jackson, and it looked as though the 21-year-old Im would snatch his first victory when he made a

12-foot birdie putt on the par-5 14th, got up-and-down from a bunker on the reachable 15th for birdie, and made it three straight birdies with a 12-foot putt. He closed with a 66, and that looked like it might be enough.

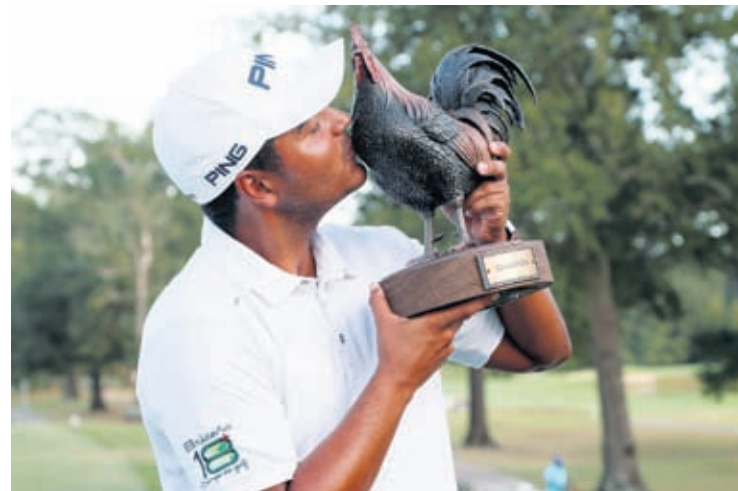
Byeong Hun An made consecutive bogeys to fall out of the mix. Ortiz, who played with Munoz in the final group, couldn't get a putt to fall.

Munoz lost two good scoring opportunities with a drive well right of the fairway on the 14th, and then flubbing a lob shot left of the 15th green that went into the bunker, leading to bogey. Down to his last

hole, he played it to perfection with a big drive, an approach to 15 feet below the hole and the most important putt of his young career. The 26-year-old from Bogota, who played his college golf at North Texas, poured in the birdie putt to join Im at 18-under 270. "We just decided on a line, keep it as simple as we can and just strike the putt," Munoz said.

The playoff on the 18th hole wasn't as clean.

Im went left into the Bermuda rough and caught a flier, sending the ball well over the green against the grandstand. Munoz was in the right rough and, expecting the ball to come



Sebastian Munoz, of Colombia, kisses the trophy after winning the Sanderson Farms Championship golf tournament in Jackson, Miss., Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

out hot, he abbreviated his swing and it came out some 30 yards short. His chip-and-run rolled out to just under 4 feet. Im did well to pitch out of rough to just over 6 feet by the hole, but his par putt didn't even touch the cup and he started walking soon after he hit it.

Munoz rolled in the par putt and the celebration was on.

"I'm speechless," he said.

This is the first time since the tournament began in 1986 that it was not held the same week as another PGA Tour event with a stronger field. □

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Jones sparkles in his start, Giants rally past Bucs 32-31

By FRED GOODALL

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — The Daniel Jones era is off to a rousing start for the New York Giants.

The rookie quarterback threw for 336 yards and two touchdowns and also ran for two TDs, including the go-ahead score with 1:16 remaining as the Giants rallied from an 18-point halftime deficit to beat the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 32-31 on Sunday.

Jameis Winston threw for 380 yards and put the Bucs (1-2) in position to pull out a dramatic win, but rookie Matt Gay's 34-yard field goal sailed wide right as time expired.

Jones scored on a 7-yard run in the second quarter and put the Giants ahead with another 7-yarder on fourth-and-goal. The sixth pick in this year's draft began New York's comeback with a 75-yard TD pass to Evan Engram on the first play of the second half, and a 7-yarder to Sterling Shepard midway through the third quarter.

Winston threw TD passes of 21, 3 and 20 yards to Mike Evans to help Tampa Bay build a 28-10 halftime lead. His 44-yard comple-



New York Giants quarterback Daniel Jones (8) scores on a 7-yard touchdown run against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers during the second half of an NFL football game Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019, in Tampa, Fla.

Associated Press

tion to the Giants 9 set up the last-second field goal try by Gay, who also missed an extra point and had another blocked.

Jones, making his first NFL start in place of benched two-time Super Bowl MVP Eli Manning, completed 23 of 36 passes. With Saquon Barkley exiting with a right ankle injury late in the first half, Jones also led the Giants with 28 yards rushing on four attempts.

As impressive as the former Duke standout was, he was not perfect. Shaquil Barrett had four of Tampa Bay's five sacks and forced a fumble that led to a field goal that put Tampa Bay up 31-25 with six minutes to go.

Jones also lost a fumble that led to one of Winston's TD passes to Evans, who finished with eight catches for 190 yards.

Engram's long catch and

run was the highlight of a six-catch, 113-yard performance. Shepard, back in the lineup after missing the previous game with a concussion, had seven catches for 100 yards, including a 36-yarder that set up the winning touchdown.

Jones played one series in New York's season-opening loss to Dallas. Manning replaced Kurt Warner after the ninth game of his rookie season in 2004 and started

232 of New York's next 233 regular-season games. The Giants averaged 420 yards on offense in the first two games this year, but only scored four touchdowns while averaging 15.5 points. The 38-year-old Manning was Jones' backup, but did not accompany New York's other captains to midfield for the pregame coin toss.

INJURIES

Giants: LB Alec Ogletree left in the second quarter after injuring a hamstring during his runback of a fumble that was later reversed by replay and ruled an incomplete pass. ... Barkley limped off the field with a little over three minutes remaining before halftime and was on crutches afterward. ... LB Tae Davis left with a concussion in the second half.

Buccaneers: ILB Devin White, the fifth pick in the draft, was inactive due to a knee injury.

UP NEXT

Giants: return home to face NFC East rival Washington next Sunday

Buccaneers: at Los Angeles Rams, beginning stretch in which they won't play at home again until Nov. 10. □

Prescott, Cowboys get out of funk, ease past Dolphins 31-6



Dallas Cowboys wide receiver Amari Cooper (19) catches a pass for a touchdown in front of Miami Dolphins' Xavier Howard (25) and Bobby McCain (28) in the second half of an NFL football game in Arlington, Texas, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

By SCHUYLER DIXON

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Dak Prescott and the Dallas Cowboys are still on a high-scoring roll, and the Miami Dolphins now have the worst scoring differential through three games since

at least 1950 despite trying a younger quarterback. It just took a half for those trends to kick in.

Prescott threw two touchdown passes to Amari Cooper before running for another score, and the

Cowboys pulled out of a first-half funk as huge favorites in a 31-6 victory over the rebuilding Dolphins on Sunday.

"I mean, it's pro football, you know what I'm saying?" said Cooper, who had team highs of six catches and 88 yards. "They came out here prepared to play us. I think we were resilient." One of Prescott's TD tosses to Cooper came before halftime, but the Dolphins had a great chance to lead at the break as 22-point underdogs when Kenyan Drake fumbled on first down from the Dallas 7-yard line in the final minute of the second quarter. DeMarcus Lawrence recovered to preserve a 10-6 lead.

Josh Rosen was 18 of 29 for 200 yards without a touchdown or interception in his

first start for Miami, which went with him over 36-year-old Ryan Fitzpatrick after the first two blowouts.

Acquired in a trade when Arizona took Kyler Murray No. 1 overall a year after drafting Rosen 10th in the first round, the 22-year-old Rosen hit some big throws while moving Miami before stalling after halftime. The rebuilding Dolphins are 0-3 for the first time since losing their first seven in 2011. They have been outscored 133-16 — that 117-point difference topping Oakland's 106 for the first three games in 1961.

"This very clearly is not a victory, but I think positives, yes," said Rosen, who was tested for a concussion in the first half but returned. "As an organization, we are just trying to like sort of find our identity. I don't think

for one millisecond of the game did we give up."

Prescott fueled the first Dallas team in 41 years to win its first two games while rolling up at least 400 yards and at least 30 points each time. And while the Cowboys did it again while reaching 3-0 for the first time since 2008, it took them awhile to find that offensive form.

The second touchdown to Cooper was a 19-yarder that capped a 75-yard drive to open the second half, and came after a 74-yard TD toss to Randall Cobb was nullified by offsetting penalties.

Prescott ran 8 yards to cap the second straight TD drive to open the second half, pulling him within one of Roger Staubach's career club record of 20 rushing touchdowns in just his fourth season. □



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Springer 3 HRs, Verlander 20th win, Astros clinch AL West

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — George Springer, Justin Verlander and the Houston Astros put a check mark in the September box.

And amid the celebration of clinching their third straight AL West title, they already were thinking ahead to what they might achieve in October.

"You can't ever take the first goal for granted," Verlander said. "I know everybody says we're going to win the World Series, but you can't do that without this first. So, step one complete. Now we have the divisional round coming up and we'll ... prepare for that and try to win 11 games."

Springer hit a career-high three homers, Verlander posted his MLB-leading 20th win and the Astros secured the division crown in grand fashion, routing the Los Angeles Angels 13-5.

A crowd at Minute Maid Park that was cheering from Verlander's first pitch got even louder as Springer homered three times in the first four innings. The Astros kept breaking away and improved to 102-54, a half-game ahead of the New York Yankees for the best record in the majors.

After the final out, the Astros held a bouncing group hug in the middle of the diamond and posed for a team picture. It hasn't been determined who they will face in the playoffs as they try for their second World Series championship in three years.

Manager AJ Hinch spoke to the team in the clubhouse as the players broke out the bubbly and began a spraying celebration.

"I don't ever want to disrespect the things we've already accomplished, but when you're in the moment



Houston Astros' George Springer, right, celebrates his solo home run off Los Angeles Angels relief pitcher Jose Suarez with Jose Altuve during the fourth inning of a baseball game, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019, in Houston. It was Springer's third home run of the game.

Associated Press

everything feels like it's the best of all time," Hinch said. "We've done a lot of good things around here over the last five years that I've been here. Every accomplishment seems to be building and building to being better. I like hanging flags: flags for divisions matter, flags for the World Series matter, and I want our guys to appreciate that."

Springer, the MVP of the 2017 World Series, had two chances to tie the big league record for home runs in a game. He popped up with the bases loaded in the fifth and grounded out in the seventh.

Verlander (20-6) yielded six hits and two runs in five innings to reach 20 wins for the second time in his career and the first since winning the AL MVP and Cy Young Award in 2011 when he went 24-5 for Detroit. This year's AL Cy Young front-runner struck out five to leave him six strikeouts

shy of becoming the 18th pitcher in MLB history to reach 3,000.

The 36-year-old righty has fanned 288 this season, second most in his career behind teammate Gerrit Cole. Verlander, who leads the AL with a 2.53 ERA, is the first Astros pitcher to win 20 games since Dallas Keuchel went 20-8 in 2015 when he won the Cy Young.

It's the second time that Verlander has started a game in which the Astros clinched the division after he did it soon after he was traded from Detroit in 2017. "The last time I clinched the division for the Houston Astros we went on to do some pretty special things that year," he said. "Glad to be out there. These moments as an organization are so special. I'm just so happy to be a part of it."

The Astros won their ninth division title. They took the NL West in 1980 and 1986,

the NL Central in 1997-99 and 2001 and their three most recent titles in the AL. Springer homered on his first three at-bats to help Houston take a 4-2 lead in the fourth inning.

"The first at-bat was huge just because we're all waiting to get the lead so we can feel like we're going to clinch," Hinch said. "George does it within the first couple of pitches. He followed it up with a couple more homers ... our vibe was really good today. We wanted to celebrate today."

The Astros added six runs in a fifth, highlighted by a two-run homer from Alex Bregman to make it 10-2.

Springer, who has a career-best 38 home runs this season, got to work immediately, sending Jose Rodriguez's first pitch into left-center field for his franchise-record 12th leadoff homer this season. That left him one shy of the MLB record for leadoff homers in a season set by

Alfonso Soriano with the Yankees in 2003.

Jared Walsh and Michael Hermosillo hit back-to-back triples with two outs in the second to tie it up.

Los Angeles manager Brad Ausmus was asked if seeing the Astros celebrate on Sunday could provide motivation to his team.

"You hope for the younger guys," he said. "Older guys probably just look the other way ... it's a lot more fun to be on that side."

Aledmys Diaz singled with no outs in the second and Springer connected off Rodriguez (0-1) again with two outs to put the Astros up 3-1. There were two outs in the fourth when Springer sent a fastball from José Suárez into the seats in left field to make it 4-2.

The record of four homers has been done 18 times, mostly recently by J.D. Martinez for Arizona in 2017. This was the 14th time in a regular-season game in franchise history that an Astros player has hit three homers and the second time this season after rookie Yordan Alvarez also did it.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Astros: RHP Brad Peacock (right shoulder soreness) was reinstated from the 10-day injured list. He walked one and struck out one a scoreless sixth.

ATTENDANCE DOWN

The Astros wrapped up their home schedule on Sunday with a season attendance of 2,857,367. That's down from last season when they drew 2,980,549.

UP NEXT

Angels: Los Angeles is off on Monday before LHP Dillon Peters (3-3, 4.81) starts in the opener of two-game series against Oakland. Peters allowed five hits and two runs in his last start but did not factor in the decision against the Yankees. □

Federer, Zverev win as Europe retains Laver Cup title



Team Europe pose with the Laver Cup trophy after defeating Team world's, at the Laver Cup tennis event, in Geneva, Switzerland, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

three points on Sunday. Nadal scratched from Europe's intended lineup in both the opening doubles with Federer and the first singles due to an inflamed hand.

Isner and doubles specialist Jack Sock then beat Federer and Stefanos Tsitsipas 5-7, 6-4, 10-8.

Nadal's replacement in singles, No. 5 ranked Dominic Thiem, was beaten 7-5, 6-7 (3), 10-5 by Taylor Fritz in a second straight match decided by the super-tiebreaker. Fritz was a late replacement for Nick Kyrgios, who like Nadal scratched after both had played in singles and doubles on Saturday. Strong play by the Americans on Sunday gave the world team an overall lead for the first time in the three-day competition.

Isner and Sock improved to 3-0 in Laver Cup doubles, and the 30th-ranked Fritz overcame Austria's Thiem.

"This has to be one of the biggest wins of my career," Fritz said. "I'm the kind of person that really doesn't want to let my team down." With Europe needing to sweep the last two rubbers, Federer came through in a typically tight match against Isner with few break-point chances.

"I'm thrilled that I was able to give something back to the team," Federer said. "Obviously to see Rafa on the sidelines after having to pull out with an injury, it's great camaraderie I feel." □

GENEVA (AP) — After Roger Federer secured a must-win victory for Team Europe, Alexander Zverev ensured the Laver Cup was retained Sunday in a title-deciding super-tiebreaker against Milos Raonic of Team World.

Zverev fired a cross-court forehand winner to clinch a 6-4, 3-6, 10-4 victory in the decisive singles match and give the Europeans a 13-11 win in points.

After Zverev fell to the ground in triumph, he disappeared from view under a pile of celebrating teammates including Federer, Rafael Nadal and their captain Bjorn Borg.

Tennis great Rod Laver, for whom the event co-owned by Federer is named, presented the trophy to the Europeans, watched by

the world team captained by John McEnroe.

"I played an unbelievable tiebreaker," Zverev said. "I'm super happy and super thankful to Roger and Rafa and the rest of the team. Without them on the bench today, I couldn't have done it."

Two hours earlier, Federer had delighted a sold-out crowd of 17,000 in his home country by beating John Isner 6-4, 7-6 (3) to set up the winner-take-all finale.

The European team also won the first two Laver Cup editions, played in 2017 in Prague and last year in Chicago. Europe began Sunday leading 7-5 in a scoring system that gave one point for a win on Friday and two on Saturday. Victories in the doubles and each of three singles matches scored



Japan's Naomi Osaka poses for a photo during an award ceremony after winning the Toray Pan Pacific Open tennis tournament in Osaka, western Japan, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019. Associated Press

Osaka wins Toray Pan Pacific, her 1st title on Japan soil

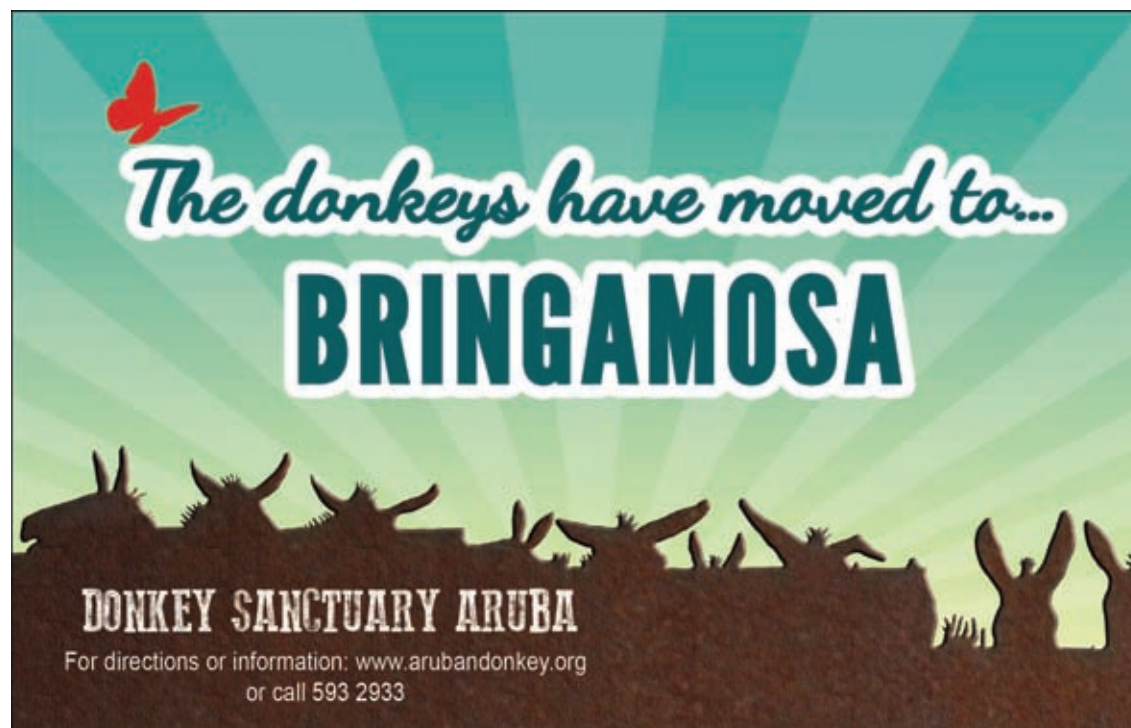
By the Associated Press
Naomi Osaka won her first singles title since the Australian Open in January by beating Russia's Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova 6-2, 6-3 in the Toray Pan Pacific final on Sunday. Enjoying strong support from a parochial crowd, the former No. 1-ranked Osaka dominated the match with her powerful groundstrokes and broke Pavlyuchenkova's serve twice to take the opening set in 31 minutes.

Top-seeded Osaka didn't ease off in the second set, denying the Russian any chance of getting a foot-

hold in the match and closed out with an ace. It is Osaka's first title in the country of her birth — she lost finals in Tokyo in 2016 and '18 — and fourth in her career. She won back-to-back majors at the U.S. Open in 2018 and the Australian Open in January.

At the Korea Open in Seoul, Karolina Muchova of the Czech Republic defeated fourth-seeded Magda Linette of Poland in the final.

The No. 3-seeded Muchova coasted to the title, overcoming her opponent 6-1, 6-1.





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Continued from Page 18

Coleman's case involved a pileup of complicated rules, confusing interpretations and twisted after-the-fact narratives that have allowed critics to cast both main players in this saga — Coleman and the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency — into a negative light.

Coleman, who has never failed a drug test, nor ever been suspected of running afoul of the rules, will be running under a cloud of suspicion in the minds of some fans and media who tend to paint all U.S. sprinters with the same broad brush — as cheaters, a stereotype borne out of America's sordid doping past.

Coleman, meanwhile, is assailing USADA for being sloppy and putting him in the crosshairs because of the confusion over the rules.

"It's a shame on USADA, the fact that this was public knowledge, the fact that they didn't know their own rules, and the fact they expect athletes to know the rules but they can't follow their own," Coleman said on a 22-minute video he posted on YouTube last week.

At issue are the World

Anti-Doping Agency's rules, which call for athletes to provide information on their whereabouts so doping-control officers can find them for out-of-competition tests with no advance notice. If an athlete has a combination of three missed tests over the span of 12 months — either because he isn't where he said he would be, because he gave the wrong information or because he didn't update the information — it can be considered an anti-doping violation. Athletes are responsible for submitting their whereabouts information quarterly, then updating it as necessary. In an interpretation of the rule that WADA applied to Coleman, his first missed test, on June 6, 2018, was backdated to the start of the quarter in which he missed the test — April 1 — which put it outside of the 12-month window between that failure and his latest one, on April 26, 2019.

It was an interpretation of the rule that USADA did not initially anticipate, and one that will be eliminated when the WADA code is revised for 2021.

And though USADA does

not discuss ongoing cases in public, because this one got leaked to the media, and because Coleman subsequently commented on it, it freed up USADA to explain its side of the case.

"In this case, we applied the rules to Mr. Coleman in the manner that USADA understands should be applied to any other international-level athlete," USADA CEO Travis Tygart explained.

Most fans probably won't delve into the minutiae of this issue, but will see the words "Doping" and "Track" in the headlines and think "nothing new there."

For the better part of 10 years, Bolt shifted that focus — even deflecting away inevitable questions about his own clean doping record with a smile, or by earnestly taking umbrage at the mere suggestion — and placed it squarely on the track, where his light all but blinded everyone from this sport's ever-growing laundry list of warts and imperfections (Remember, the Russian doping scandal began as a track and field issue, and barring an unexpected move by track's governing body this week, Russians will compete as neutral athletes with their



In this June 30, 2019, file photo, Christian Coleman, left, of the United States, wins the 100-meter race as he looks towards compatriot Justin Gatlin during the Prefontaine Classic athletics meet in Stanford, Calif.

Associated Press

track federation still under suspension).

Now that Bolt is gone, the top two contenders in Saturday's 100-meter final are expected to be Coleman and defending champion Justin Gatlin, a 37-year-old who has been suspended twice for doping violations and whose victory at worlds in London in 2017 was greeted with skepticism from the media and boos from the stands.

"I know you have to have the black hat and the

white hat, but guys, c'mon," Gatlin said after his victory, in responding to the booing and the harsh questioning that accompanied the win.

Can any sprinter — whether declared innocent, or insistent that he's changed his ways — get a clean start in a sport that demands exactly that?

Maybe Coleman's trip to Doha, with less than a year to go before the 2020 Olympics, will offer some sort of answer. □

Truex wins again at Richmond; Gibbs' Jones disqualified

By HANK KURZ Jr.

AP Sports Writer

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Martin Truex Jr. seemed to have a "pinch me" moment as he climbed from his car in victory lane.

Nudged off the lead with 87 laps to go, Truex rallied Saturday night, ultimately passing Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Kyle Busch with 25 laps to go and winning his second consecutive NASCAR Cup Series race. That it came in the series' playoffs, it seemed, made it all the more surreal.

"To spin and win is pretty incredible. I've never done

anything like that in my life," Truex said.

"When things are rolling, they just are."

The victory completed a redemptive finish for Truex, the championship leader coming into the race. The bump from Ricky Stenhouse Jr., who was running on fresher tires, seemed inadvertent, and came in Turn 4, but Truex was still running third when the caution flew.

He gradually reeled in his teammate, got a nudge from Busch as he passed and pulled away.

"I think any time you're win-

ning at this level, there's a little bit of a pinch-me feeling," Truex said. "Look, this is really, really difficult. These races are hard to win. ... You've got to have some things go your ways sometimes and we've certainly had that the last two weeks."

Pole sitter Brad Keselowski moved up to fourth with Jones' disqualification, and every driver that finished behind him moved up one spot on the final grid, and in the two in-race stages, where Jones had been ninth in the first stage and fourth in the second. □



Martin Truex Jr. struggles to lift the winner's trophy after his victory in the NASCAR Cup Series auto race at Richmond Raceway in Richmond, Va., Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019.

Associated Press

Why you don't need a 5G phone just yet

NEW YORK (AP) — No 5G iPhone? No problem. You probably don't want one anyway.

For most people, it's smart to stick with a smartphone that isn't compatible with speedier 5G wireless networks, which are just starting to roll out. That's the case even if you think you'll be hanging on to your next phone for a few years.

Not only are the first-generation 5G phones expensive, their antennas and modems typically work only with particular 5G networks owned by specific mobile carriers. That could limit your options if you're trying to get the faster speeds while roaming overseas or on a rival company's network — or if you decide to switch providers later.

Experts say second-generation phones in the coming year will address those and other shortcomings. The research firm IDC, calling 2019 "an introductory year at best," expects 5G phones to make up 9% of worldwide shipments next year and 28% in 2023.

THE TARGET MARKET

Samsung, Motorola, LG and OnePlus already make 5G phones that use Google's Android system. Huawei announced one Thursday, though it's missing popular



This Aug. 7, 2019 file photo shows the Samsung Galaxy Note 10, right, and the Galaxy Note 10 Plus on display during a launch event in New York.

Associated Press

Google apps because of a U.S. ban on tech exports to the Chinese company.

Although 5G phones are a niche product, IHS Markit said phone makers haven't been able to keep up with surprisingly strong demand, especially in South Korea. Samsung said it has sold 2 million 5G phones worldwide since April and expects to double that by the end of the year. Motorola said it has seen "tremendous engagement and excitement" from customers.

But Motorola said such first-generation products primarily suit early adopters who need to be first on the block.

New iPhones out Friday won't support 5G. Apple typically waits for technology to mature before adopting it.

THE PRICE OF 5G

The speedy wireless technology can add a few hundred dollars to phone price tags. For instance, Samsung's standard Galaxy S10 phone costs \$900;

the 5G model costs \$1,300, though Samsung said it also showcases the company's best features, including a larger screen and a better camera. For Motorola, 5G comes as a \$350 option for the existing Moto Z series phones.

"This territory is reserved for the leading-edge type of consumer, those willing to sacrifice a bit more money up front to be first," said Wayne Lam, an analyst at IHS Markit. "Longer term is where the smart money is."

The price gap is expected to narrow and eventually disappear as 5G becomes a standard feature, Geoff Blaber of CCS Insight said.

NETWORK LIMITATIONS

Even as phone companies make big claims about revolutionary new applications, 5G coverage is limited to certain neighborhoods in a handful of cities. While 5G phones can still connect over existing 4G LTE networks, "are you willing to spend extra for something you might not see consistently until 2021?" IHS Markit analyst Josh Builta asks.

5G is actually a set of wireless technologies using different parts of the airwaves. Each wireless carrier emphasizes a different flavor of 5G, and each one is selling 5G phones designed specifically for its network.

Wireless networks have a history of Balkanization, although it tends to sort itself out. Verizon and Sprint have been using a wireless technology called CDMA, while AT&T and T-Mobile use an incompatible version called GSM. Early on, phone makers produced separate CDMA and GSM models. But as technology advanced, they were able to pack all the necessary antennas and components into universal phones. □



In this photo taken Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2019, new Facebook Portal products are displayed during an event in San Francisco.

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Facebook is slashing the price and the size of the Portal, its screen and camera-equipped gadget for making video calls with friends and family as it attempts to get the device

into more homes.

A smaller version will now cost \$129 and will come with an 8 inch display. A larger version with a 10 inch display will cost \$179.

A new screenless Portal device that attaches to a

Facebook slashes price, size of Portal video call gadget

television set will be \$149. Last year's models were bigger and cost more — \$199 for a 10.1 inch display and \$349 for at 15.6 inch screen.

Facebook isn't saying how many Portals it's sold since it launched the first models last fall. It remains unclear how many people want a Facebook-branded smart camera in their homes, given the company's history of privacy problems.

Facebook executives unveiled the new gadget at a small event in San Francisco this week. In addition to losing a few inches, Por-

tal has been redesigned to look less like a space-age gadget and more like a picture frame.

The product is also launching in more countries and will work with WhatsApp to make video calls, in addition to Facebook's Messenger app. And will now stream Amazon Prime videos.

Facebook has tried to assuage privacy concerns with the Portal. The service will not show ads, but "we are using Facebook's infrastructure, so some data may inform ads on Facebook," said Andrew "Boz"

Bosworth, vice president of virtual reality and augmented reality. "But that's not the point of it, it's not something that is going to be material to Facebook." For instance, if someone makes a lot of video calls on Portal, they might see ads for video calling devices elsewhere. But Facebook says it doesn't use the content of the calls for ad targeting, though Bosworth declined to commit to never doing so in the future.

The Portal and the Portal Mini go on sale Oct. 15; the screenless version ships on Nov. 5. □

Honest Co.'s CFO shares lessons learned and his vision ahead

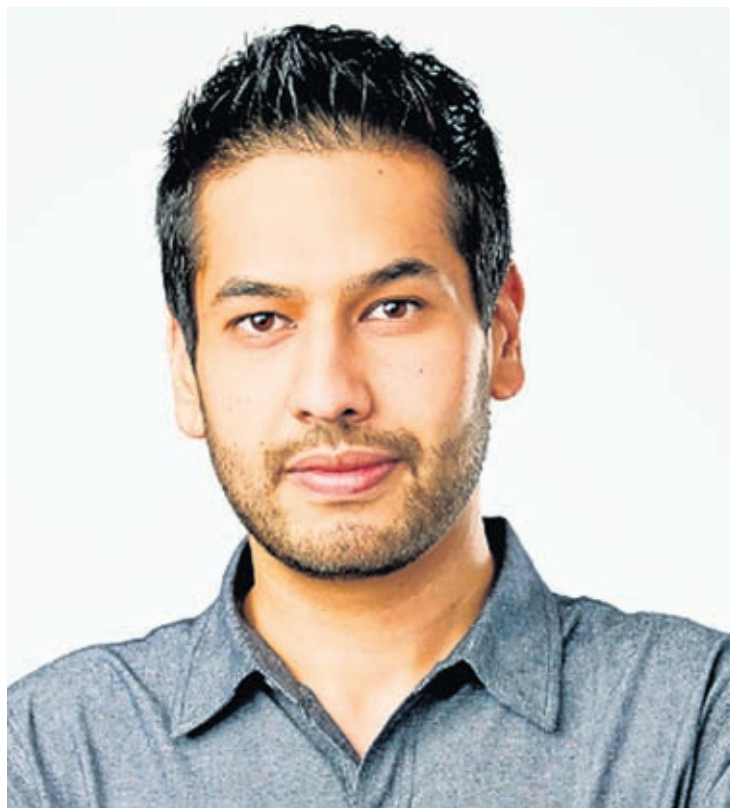
By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The Honest Company, known for its eco-friendly diapers, wipes and cleaning products, is back on the upswing after a series of stumbling blocks. The digital native company was founded by actress Jessica Alba in 2012. It attained unicorn status — when a privately held startup attains valuation of more than \$1 billion — three years later. Its formula? Honest successfully built an online community of young parents looking for safe, affordable products for their children. It initially started out with diapers and wipes along with household cleaning products and then expanded into beauty and other items. But the Playa Vista, California-based company struggled with a series of setbacks over the next two years ranging from a voluntary recall of baby wipes to a class action lawsuit over ingredients used in some products. In response, Honest hired a new CEO, cut back on some product lines, and brought re-

search and development in-house.

Honest, infused with a \$200 million investment last year from private equity firm L. Catterton, is expanding its presence in stores. And this past summer, it moved beyond North America for the first time, taking its beauty business to Western Europe with an exclusive deal with German retail chain Douglas. This month, Honest Beauty will launch in the United Kingdom with beauty and health chain Boots. Honest declined to reveal annual sales, but half of its total revenue is generated from stores, and 45% comes from diapers.

The Associated Press recently interviewed Honest Co. Chief Financial Officer Muhammad Shahzad, a former investment banker who joined the company in 2014, on stage in Boston at an online industry conference called eTail. During the interview, he shared his thoughts about the company's instant success, lessons learned and his vision for growth. The conversation has been edited for clarity and length.



This undated image provided by The Honest Company shows The Honest Company Chief Financial Officer Muhammad Shahzad.

Associated Press

Q. Why such instant success?

A. Our mission has always been to empower people to live healthy and happy lives. Jessica herself and the founding team had a relentless focus on the consumer and ultimately

created a brand that resonated with our community of parents. They tend to be millennial and much focused on clean, better for you products. We always understood and had a pulse on the consumer in a way that perhaps some of

the larger (consumer product) companies haven't or couldn't because of not having a direct relationship.... And of course, there is a macro (trend): health and wellness is here to stay.

Q. Your brand isn't just for higher-income shoppers.

A. The idea and vision from Jessica was always to create these clean, safe, effective products and make them accessible to everybody.

Q. You had a series of stumbling blocks. What were the lessons learned?

A. To me, the challenges can't define you. You learn from them and you grow. One of the earlier mistakes we made was not focusing on quality control and R&D. It was too many things, too fast. We've redone 95% of the products over the last two and a half years. We have a lot of momentum.

Q. What are your plans for expanding your presence in physical stores?

A. Domestically, the business keeps growing at Target, Costco, Whole Foods, among many others where we've been for a few years.

□

Big money urges governments to tackle climate change

Associated Press

A group of more than 500 major institutional investors called Thursday for governments to boost efforts to tackle climate change, warning that failure could have serious economic consequences.

The banks, insurance companies and pension funds said in a joint statement ahead of next week's U.N. climate summit in New York that current national commitments could lead to an "unacceptably high temperature increase that would cause substantial negative economic impacts."

The group includes financial giants such as France's Amundi, which manages 1.487 trillion euros (\$1.64 trillion); Canada-based Manulife; and Insight Investment in the United States.

Countries that signed the 2015 Paris climate accord

have committed to keeping global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 Fahrenheit), ideally aiming for an increase of no more than 1.5C (2.7F) by the end of the century compared with pre-industrial times.

But the investment firms, which together say they manage \$35 trillion in assets, cited a gap between the modest steps pledged by governments — which in themselves fall short of what's needed to meet the Paris goals — and actual measures taken so far.

"This ambition gap is of great concern to investors and needs to be addressed, with urgency," the companies said. "It is vital for our long-term planning and asset allocation decisions that governments work closely with investors to incorporate Paris-aligned climate scenarios into their policy frameworks

and energy transition pathways."

The investors want governments to speed up the shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy, back rules requiring companies to report

Institutional investors have become increasingly vocal about the need to confront climate change lately.

In a separate investor-backed study released Wednesday, the London-

the Paris goal of capping global warming at 2C. By contrast, the researchers found that about 20% of the 59 electric utility companies examine are aligned with that target. □



This Aug. 13, 2019, file photo, shows the boat Malizia as it is moored in Plymouth, England Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2019.

Associated Press

climate-related information in their financial statements and put a meaningful price on carbon emissions.

based Transition Pathway Initiative said none of the world's top 50 oil and gas companies are in line with

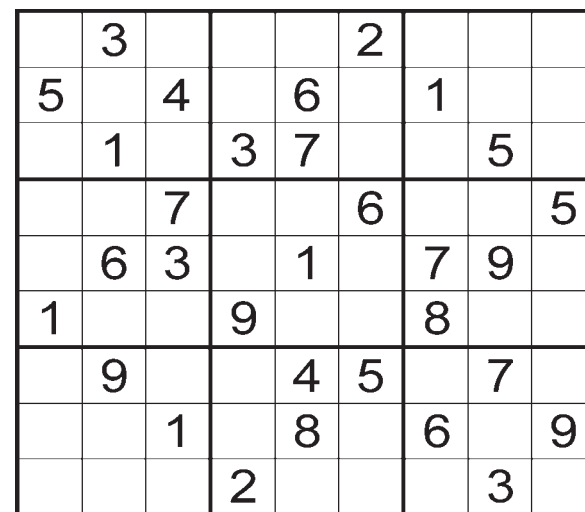
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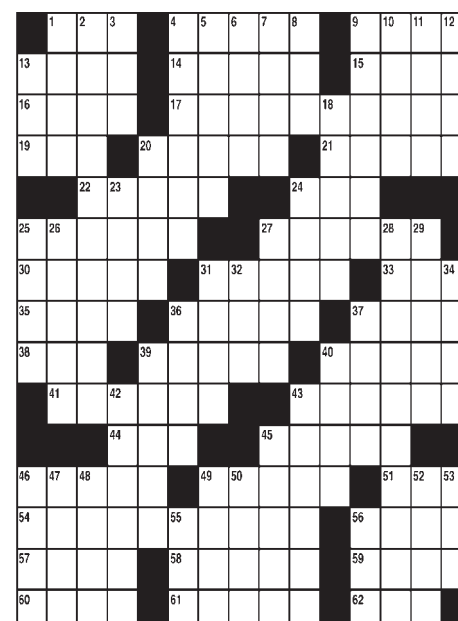
Conceptis Sudoku



9/23

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- 1 Baby goat
- 4 TV's "____ World Turns"
- 9 Radar screen image
- 13 "A diller, a dollar, a ____ clock scholar..."
- 14 Showed courage
- 15 Actress Turner
- 16 Suffix for convey or perform
- 17 Blows one's budget
- 19 Luau dish
- 20 Liberated
- 21 Williams & Griffith
- 22 Parts of speech
- 24 A-E connection
- 25 Beer mugs
- 27 Pressure cooker brand
- 30 On top of the ____; elated
- 31 Otherwise known as



9/23/19

5 Rescues
6 Poplar or willow
7 Cattle group
8 Ames & Asner
9 Mixes together
10 Come to shore
11 __ 500; annual
race
12 Go by
13 Dance style
18 Walks the floor
20 Provide money
for
23 Greasy
24 Boast
25 Exchange
26 Hauled away
a car
27 Bawdily tease

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

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39 Small fruit
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expense
49 Night twinkler
50 Become fatigued
52 Flying saucers,
e.g.
53 _ it; understand
55 Tennis court
divider
56 Enjoy a winter
sport

1 Game similar to lotto
2 Burn to ashes
3 Female animal
4 Decorates

Summer of Blob: Maine sees more big, stinging jellyfish

By PATRICK WHITTLE

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — Seaside New England is known for rocky shores, seafood shacks, chance whale sightings and, in recent months, lots of gooey, tentacled blobs.

The Gulf of Maine and some of its beaches, ever popular with tourists, have recorded a high number of sightings of a big jellyfish that has the ability to sting swimmers and occasionally does.

The lion's mane jellyfish, the largest known variety, can grow to five or more feet across, with tentacles more than 100 feet long.

Such giant jellyfish are uncommon, but beachgoers say larger than average ones have been exceptionally plentiful this year in the gulf, which touches Maine, two other states and two Canadian provinces.

Becky Rice-Barnes of Mariaville and her husband Jimmy were out digging for clams at Maine's Lamoine Beach recently when they found a five-foot specimen washed ashore.

"My husband said you're not going to believe what's over here, and I didn't," Rice-Barnes said. "We've seen red jellyfish before, we've just never seen a red jellyfish that's huge."

Jellyfish are tracked each summer by Nick Record, a senior research scientist at Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences in East Boothbay, Maine. Typically fewer than half the jellyfish reported are lion's manes. This year, almost all of several hundred jellyfish observed were the lion's mane variety. The exact number of total jellyfish sightings isn't available yet, but Record said it's on pace to be in the typical range of 300 to 700.

Unlike other jellyfish common off Maine, they're not entirely translucent. In the water, they resemble a drifting fireball, and when washed on land they can collapse into a mess that resembles a bloody crime scene.

Record takes reports about



In this May 12, 2019, photo provided by Rebecca Rice-Barnes, Jimmy Barnes, of Mariaville, Maine, observes a large lion's mane jellyfish that washed ashore on Lamoine Beach, Maine. Associated Press

jellyfish encounters via a website, the Jellyfish Reporter, that allows beachgoers and boaters to provide details about sightings. A couple of lion's manes five or six feet across, and many have been a foot and a half to two feet.

The lion's mane lives in cold waters in many parts of the world. The jellyfish uses its tentacles to capture prey,

and its sting can be painful to humans, though not typically life-threatening. At least five swimmers in Maine have reported stings this year.

"Just a gigantic, scary jellyfish that you would not want to run into in the water," Record said of larger lion's manes. "It has been kind of a steady stream of them all summer."



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Where have the wild birds gone? 3 billion fewer than 1970

By **SETH BORENSTEIN** and **CHRISTINA LARSON**
AP Science Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — North America's skies are lonelier and quieter as nearly 3 billion fewer wild birds soar in the air than in 1970, a comprehensive study shows.

The new study focuses on the drop in sheer numbers of birds, not extinctions. The bird population in the United States and Canada was probably around 10.1 billion nearly half a century ago and has fallen 29% to about 7.2 billion birds, according to a study in Thursday's journal *Science*.

"People need to pay attention to the birds around them because they are slowly disappearing," said study lead author Kenneth Rosenberg, a Cornell University conservation scientist. "One of the scary things about the results is that it is happening right under our eyes. We might not even notice it until it's too late."

Rosenberg and colleagues projected population data using weather radar, 13 different bird surveys going back to 1970 and computer modeling to come up with trends for 529 species of North American birds. That's not all species, but more than three-quarters of them and most of the missed species are quite rare, Rosenberg said.

Using weather radar data, which captures flocks of migrating birds, is a new method, he said.



This April 14, 2019 file photo shows a western meadowlark in the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge in Commerce City, Colo.

Associated Press

"This is a landmark paper. It's put numbers to everyone's fears about what's going on," said Joel Cracraft, curator-in-charge for ornithology of the American Museum of Natural History, who wasn't part of the study.

"It's even more stark than what many of us might have guessed," Cracraft said.

Every year University of Connecticut's Margaret Rubega, the state ornithologist, gets calls from people noticing fewer birds. And this study, which she wasn't part of, highlights an important problem, she said.

"If you came out of your

house one morning and noticed that a third of all the houses in your neighborhood were empty, you'd rightly conclude that something threatening was going on," Rubega said in an email. "3 billion of our neighbors, the ones who eat the bugs that destroy our food plants and carry diseases like equine encephalitis, are gone. I think we all ought to think that's threatening."

Some of the most common and recognizable birds are taking the biggest hits, even though they are not near disappearing yet, Rosenberg said.

The common house spar-

row was at the top of the list for losses, as were many other sparrows. The population of eastern meadowlarks has shriveled by more than three-quarters with the western meadowlark nearly as hard hit. Bobwhite quail numbers are down 80%, Rosenberg said.

Grassland birds in general are less than half what they used to be, he said.

Not all bird populations are shrinking. For example, bluebirds are increasing, mostly because people have worked hard to get their numbers up.

Rosenberg, a birdwatcher since he was 3, has seen this firsthand over more

than 60 years. When he was younger there would be "invasions" of evening grosbeaks that his father would take him to see in Upstate New York with 200 to 300 birds around one feeder. Now, he said, people get excited when they see 10 grosbeaks.

The research only covered wild birds, not domesticated ones such as chickens. Rosenberg's study didn't go into what's making wild birds dwindle away, but he pointed to past studies that blame habitat loss, cats and windows.

"Every field you lose, you lose the birds from that field," he said. "We know that so many things are killing birds in large numbers, like cats and windows."

Experts say habitat loss was the No. 1 reason for bird loss. A 2015 study said cats kill 2.6 billion birds each year in the United States and Canada, while window collisions kill another 624 million and cars another 214 million.

That's why people can do their part by keeping cats indoors, treating their home windows to reduce the likelihood that birds will crash into them, stopping pesticide and insecticide use at home and buying coffee grown on farms with forest-like habitat, said Sara Hallager, bird curator at the Smithsonian Institution.

"We can reverse that trend," Hallager said. "We can turn the tide." □

History buff finds ships that sank in 1878 in Lake Michigan

DETROIT (AP) — A diver and maritime history buff has found two schooners that collided and sank into the cold depths of northern Lake Michigan more than 140 years ago.

Bernie Hellstrom, of Boyne City, Michigan, said he was looking for shipwrecks about 10 years ago when a depth sounder on his boat noted a large obstruction about 200 feet (60 meters)

down on the lake bottom near Beaver Island.

"I've made hundreds of trips to Beaver Island and every trip I go out the sounder is on," he told The Associated Press on Friday. "But if you happen to see something that's not normal, you go back. A lot are nothing but fish schools. This was 400 feet of boat. There's nothing out there that big that's missing."

He returned to the area in June with a custom-made camera system and discovered the Peshtigo and St. Andrews about 10 feet

(3 meters) apart with their masts atop one another. The hull of one of the ships has a huge gash.

It had been believed the ships sank in 1878 farther to the east in the Straits of Mackinac in Lake Huron. But only one ship could be found and that was thought to be the St. Andrews.

"They never found the second boat," said Hellstrom, 63.

Hellstrom brought technical divers in to record video of the wrecks. Madison, Wisconsin-based marine

historian Brendon Baillod was recruited to help solve the mystery.

Baillod said he searched through old news reports and learned that the Peshtigo and St. Andrews did hit each other and sink between Beaver and Fox islands, northwest of Charlevoix, Michigan.

The Peshtigo was 161 feet (49 meters) long and carrying coal. The St. Andrews was 143 feet (43 meters) long and carrying corn. The collision was blamed on confusion in signal torches, he said. □



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A stitch in time: Tapestry immortalizes "Game of Thrones"

By CLAIRE PARKER
Associated Press

BAYEUX, France (AP) — Famously, Arya Stark always preferred her sword Needle to needlework. Still, even she would be impressed with the giant tapestry now on show in France that recounts the plot of "Game of Thrones" in glorious and, of course, gory and salacious detail.

With the award-winning saga about power struggles in mythical Westeros poised for more success at the Emmy Awards on Sunday, the tapestry's unveiling this month in the Normandy town of Bayeux could hardly be better-timed. The show's 32 nominations broke a single-year record. Fans who have flocked in their thousands to see the embroidered artwork are giving it a thumbs-up.

"It's fantastic. You can see kind of the story, how it all lays out," Amanda Zides, visiting from a suburb of



In this photo taken Wednesday, Sept. 18, 2019 Loic Jamin, Bayeux's deputy mayor for tourism and museums, poses with the "Game of Thrones" tapestry during an interview with the Associated Press in Bayeux, Normandy, France.

Boston, said as she pored over the tapestry this week. "They did a nice job — great color, great detail." At 87 meters (285 feet),

the tapestry is longer than the width of a soccer pitch and longer than the famous 11th-century Bayeux Tapestry that recounts the

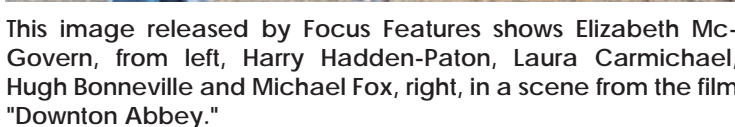
Norman invasion of England in 1066. That tapestry served as an inspiration for the "Game of Thrones" look-alike.

The work was commissioned by the tourism office of Northern Ireland, where HBO filmed many of the scenes. Irish officials hope the Bayeux exhibit will boost tourism to Northern Ireland. Its "Game of Thrones" sites are already a big draw, attracting 350,000 visitors in 2018 alone.

"We consider the Bayeux Tapestry as the grandmother of our 'Game of Thrones' tapestry," said Séverine Lecart, director of marketing in France for Tourism Ireland.

Obvious parallels between the two tapestries include the embroidery styles, colors and structures. Both are divided into three segments, with their central storylines running through the middle bordered by smaller panels displaying motifs like winged beasts or weaponry. The two works evoke similar themes of violent conquest and feudal loyalties. □

Associated Press



Associated Press

'Downton Abbey' overpowers Brad Pitt, Rambo at box office

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Raise your tea cups! The big-screen encore of "Downton Abbey" handily (but very politely) thumped both Brad Pitt's "Ad Astra" and Sylvester Stallone's "Rambo: Last Blood" in theaters over the weekend in one of the more unlikely box-office upsets.

"Downton Abbey" debuted with \$31 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday, royally trumping the \$19.2 million opening for "Ad Astra" and the \$19 million debut for "Rambo: Last Blood." Neither the draw of Pitt in space nor a bandanna-wearing Stallone could match the appeal a tea party with old friends. While the stout performance of "Downton Abbey" had come to be expected in the lead-up to release, it was still striking. The debut marked the best first weekend ever for Focus Features in its 17-year history. It ranks as the best opening for any specialty studio in a decade.

"We always knew that there was a tremendous amount of love for 'Downton Abbey,'" said Lisa Bunnell, Fo-

cus' distribution chief. "But as we started on working with promotions and special events for the movie, we realized that the love for 'Downton Abbey' goes way beyond what we even thought it was going to be." Coming four years since the series finale, "Downton Abbey" returns most of the original cast and was penned by its creator, Julian Fellowes. To drum up excitement, Focus hosted dress-ups and "Downton" parties. While the film drew a healthy amount of younger moviegoers (31% under 35), its audience was predictably largely female (74 and older (32% over 55) — a seldom-catered-to demographic.

Critics greeted the film warmly (85% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) but audiences were even more enthusiastic, giving it an A CinemaScore. Having already played for a week in some international territories, "Downton Abby" has already brought in \$61.8 million worldwide.

Reviews were similarly strong for James Grey's "Ad Astra," which premiered earlier in the month at the Venice Film Festival. It sits at 83% fresh on Rotten To-

matoes and comes on the heels of plaudits for Pitt in Quentin Tarantino's "Once Upon a Time ... In Hollywood" (which has grossed \$344.6 million worldwide thus far).

But the film, in which Pitt plays an astronaut journeying through the solar system to reach his space-explorer father (Tommy Lee Jones), was a pricey one — especially for an artfully made drama predicated more on father-son psychology than sci-fi spectacle. The production cost around \$100 million for 20th Century Fox, which was earlier this year acquired by the Walt Disney Co.

Disney postponed the release of "Ad Astra" from May to September. The result for "Ad Astra" follows disappointing returns for a handful of Fox films released under Disney, including "Dark Phoenix" and "Stuber." "Ad Astra," which added \$26 million overseas, will hope good reviews give the film some legs in the weeks ahead.

"It's been a very rough go for many of the Fox releases," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for data firm Comscore. "I think this is a solid debut. □

Brittany Howard shines in new solo album



In this April 29, 2017 file photo, Brittany Howard of Alabama Shakes performs at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in New Orleans.

Associated Press

By RAGAN CLARK
Associated Press
Brittany Howard, "Jaime"
(ATO Records)
Solo projects can be hit or miss for artists looking to break from a band. For some, their newfound cre-

ative independence allows them to hit their stride. For others (even rock legend Mick Jagger), they seem to function better as part of a collective effort.

Brittany Howard of Alabama Shakes falls into the former category. Her personality and songwriting shine through on "Jaime," the singer and guitarist's 11-track solo debut. Howard doesn't play it safe on "Jaime." She experiments with musical styles more than she typically has in her work with the Shakes. While Alabama Shakes adhere to a more classic rock sound, Howard brings in gospel, lo-fi and funk influences on "Jaime."

In her subject matter, she also doesn't pull any punches, tackling religion

in "He Loves Me" and race in "Goat Head." Even seemingly simple songs, such as "Georgia," carry weight. In a world where lesbian love songs are a rarity in the mainstream, this tender track feels both powerful and vulnerable. "He Loves Me" samples church sermons as Howard sings, "I don't go to church anymore." The song confronts the dissonance between religious teachings and progressive lifestyles head on. "I know He still loves me when I'm smoking blunts/ Loves me when I'm drinking too much," she sings. Then later, "He doesn't judge me." Just as Howard brings to light the gray area of religion in "He Loves Me," she does the same with race in "Goat Head." □

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CONSTANCE WU | JENNIFER LOPEZ

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| PH | MON-THU 6:00 8:30 |
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WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES

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THE ANGRY BIRDS MOVIE 2

JASON SUDEIKIS | JOSH GAD

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DORA AND THE LOST CITY OF GOLD

ISABELA MONER | EVA LONGORIA

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Chris Sullivan of 'This is Us' takes risks on the red carpet

By BROOKE LEFFERTS
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Chris Sullivan may or may not win at this weekend's Emmy Awards, but it's a sure bet that when he strikes a pose on the red carpet, his unconventional attire will make a statement.

At past events, Sullivan has donned a top hat and cane, brightly colored flowered pants and suits with flashy patterns. The "This is Us" actor says the notion that everyone learns lessons from failure gives him the courage to take fashion risks.

"You put (his co-stars) Justin (Hartley), Sterling (K. Brown) and Milo (Ventimiglia) in a blue, gray or dark suit, and they look like James Bond. You put me in those same suits and I look like a bank teller. And so, I've always enjoyed wearing things that I shouldn't technically be wearing or things that you shouldn't be allowed to



This combination photo shows actor Chris Sullivan at the GQ Men of the Year Party at the Chateau Marmont in Los Angeles, at the NBC Television Critics Association 2017 Summer Press Tour in Beverly Hills, at the Los Angeles premiere of "Camping" and at the 23rd annual Critics' Choice Awards in Santa Monica, Calif. on Jan. 11, 2018.

wear," Sullivan told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

Sullivan is a first-time Emmy nominee for best supporting actor for his role as Toby on the show. The awards

will be given out Sunday in Los Angeles.

Sullivan, who enjoys overdressing for an occasion at times, says he's playing with fashion while pushing boundaries.

"There's an element of challenging what is, what are masculine norms, as far as how you're supposed to dress or how you're supposed to look, or whether or not you can paint your

fingernails or wear makeup or, you know, wear a dress, or put whatever you want and have fun expressing yourself in another way, which on the red carpet is through clothing and appearance," he said.

He has worn dark-colored nail polish on a red carpet and once got called out by a reporter.

"(The reporter) didn't have a problem with me wearing nail polish. But I think their mind just immediately went to, 'Well, that's not allowed. You're not allowed to do that.' Well, why not? The idea of... what a straight, white middle-aged male's supposed to look like and sound like and act like is up for debate. It's all up for debate these days," he said. "And in a conversation, where most of my job is to just ask questions, stay curious and be of service, that is a little small way that I can challenge perceptions." □

Associated Press

'I've got one!' Hunting neon scorpions in the Arizona desert

By PETER PRENGAMAN

LOST DUTCHMAN STATE PARK, Arizona (AP) — As

the setting sun left a yellow tinge on dirt-colored cactuses as far as the eye could see, park ranger Anna Roberts gave us a lesson on what we were about to hunt.

"Scorpions know they will not kill us because we are much larger," said Roberts, explaining that the animals' first instinct would be to escape, not sting, and that fatalities from bites in the U.S. were rare. "So, you don't have worry about that."

The light-hearted preparatory chat also came with a serious message: Don't be dumb with scorpions, which move quickly on eight legs and are equipped with pincer claws and curved tails that lash enemies and deposit venom.

Closed-toed shoes were a must, the critters should only be picked up with tongs, and they should not be played with — a message I made sure my oldest children, boys ages 8 and 9, heard.

Having just moved with my family to Arizona, the excursion struck me as a uniquely desert-life thing to do. However, my wife, who rightly said taking our 3-year-old would have been a bad idea, thought I was nuts.

For whatever reason, I've always found scorpions intriguing, if not a little terrifying. A glance at popular culture tells me I'm not alone.



This Aug. 18, 2019 photo shows the Praying Hands Formation of the Superstition Mountains in Lost Dutchman State Park located outside of Phoenix, Ariz.

Associated Press

In movies, on the skin of many tattoo lovers and in one of the 12 astrological signs, scorpions' distinct shape and supposed attributes are often on display. They are portrayed as savage, lethal, true warriors — not far off from what we were about to see on the hunt.

As we walked into the desert under the moonlight, we carried flashlights to see where we were stepping. The terrain was rocky, dusty and uneven, mixed with rough underbrush. Crucial to the hunt, however, were black lights: Scorpions glow under ultraviolet lights for reasons that scientists don't know.

"Why they fluoresce is the million-dollar question," said Lauren Esposito, curator of

arachnology at the California Academy of Sciences. Some theorize that the light scares off would-be predators, while others think it might attract pollinators, potential prey.

A few minutes into the hike, neon green shapes began appearing. They ranged in length from a small grasshopper to a human finger. Upon our approach, the scorpions would sometimes scurry away, sometimes duck into a hole and, just as often, raise their pincers and arch their tails in preparation for battle. There is a reason they are apex predators in the invertebrate food chain.

"I've got one! I've got one!" people began shouting, capturing them with tongs from behind. "I need a box over here!"

A handful of people carrying plastic containers, including my sons, would come over, opening the cap so a writhing scorpion could be placed inside. Everybody around would stop, shine black lights and stare as the scorpion began moving from one side of the box to the other.

"This is awesome!" said James Brine, a 37-year-old machinist from Tempe, a Phoenix suburb, who wore a black T-shirt with a neon scorpion on the front. "I love it."

Brine, who came out with two friends, said it was fun

to see scorpions in a different way. When he was growing up, his family considered them pests.

The hearty arthropods, which have roamed the earth for millions of years, can indeed be unwanted guests. Dozens of Phoenix companies offer to spray, kill and seal scorpions out of homes. Online ads include pictures of smiling and unsuspecting little children, and warnings that scorpions could even show up in your bed.

While scorpion stings hurt — experts say they are like a bee sting — they are rarely lethal, especially in the United States. A 2008 study, "Epidemiology of scorpionism: A global appraisal," found that of about 1.2 mil-

lion stings annually, 3,250, or 0.27%, resulted in death. The highest risk areas are in parts of Africa, the Middle East, South India, Mexico and southern Latin America, and fatalities were often a result of a lack of anti-venom treatments, according to the study.

Esposito said that of about 2,500 species of scorpions worldwide, only 25 or so are truly dangerous. The most hazardous in the United States is found in Southwestern states: the Arizona bark scorpion, which is light brown and blends into the desert landscape.

While scorpions get a "bad rap," they are an important indicator of the overall health of the ecosystems where they are found, said Esposito.

"If something is going wrong in an area, scorpions are a place to look" to understand what is going on, she said.

After an hour, our group had gathered about 25 scorpions. All were placed in a large plastic box, around the size of a home aquarium. Roberts, the ranger, identified three kinds we had captured: straight tail, yellow ground and giant hairy scorpions.

Watching them interact, I was awed by their ferocity. Several attacked each other, pinching and whipping their tails, while others tried in vain to climb out, slipping on the side of the box only to charge and continue trying. □



In this Aug. 18, 2019 photo, scorpions wander in a tank after being captured in Lost Dutchman State Park, Ariz.

Associated Press



This Aug. 18, 2019 photo shows Park Ranger Anna Roberts, center, talking about scorpions and how to catch them in Lost Dutchman State Park, Ariz.

Associated Press